

Monday

Pop ...
A generation after the heyday of the Beatles Spectrum finds that big business has moved into pop ... goes the MP
Furtively, in the small hours, MPs have voted to move house
Sporting ...
The British Lightweight Boxing Championship: Srikanth Sen reports
... partners
The Monday Page meets couples who work together - such as Judi Dench and Michael Williams



Hard times
First of a series on Mozambique, a land torn by war, drought and economic troubles

Cable & Wireless sale flops

The Government's privatization programme suffered a setback as investors bid for only about 70 per cent of the Cable & Wireless shares offered in a £275m state sell-off.

Observers said the City had been discouraged by reports of a high striking price. Page 21

Police shake-up

A new police strategy, emphasizing policing the community by consent, is disclosed in a Home Office circular to chief constables. Page 2

Transport Bill

A government Bill aimed at severing the link between London Transport and the Greater London Council and offering scope for privatization has been published. Page 2

Arson ruling

The Court of Appeal cleared Bruce Lee, the Humberston arsonist, of killing 11 men, but convictions relating to 15 other fire victims stand. Page 3

CND action

The CND is to decide this weekend at its annual conference whether it should take up nationwide a campaign to persuade Servicemen to join the organization. Page 2

Space extra

The crew of the space shuttle Columbia are asking for an extra day in space to complete their heavy workload in the European Spaceclab. Page 4

Kidnap ordeal

Mr Alfred Heinken, the kidnapped brewery chief who was freed by police on Wednesday, has described how he was chained up in a cold damp cell for three weeks. Page 5

Blow to banks

Banks face a legal stumbling block in their attempt to introduce bank debit cards, which allow electronic transfer of funds at the shop till. Family Money, page 26

Air response

The Soviet Union has announced plans for a unified air traffic control system. Diplomats said the move might be a response to the downing of the Korean airliner three months ago. Relatives claim, page 4

Arsenal's jolt

Arsenal's chairman, Peter Hill-Wood, gave his players a pep talk before the club's home match against West Bromwich Albion today. Arsenal lost to third division Walsall on Tuesday. Page 30

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US tells Russia to keep out of the Middle East

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The new agreement on strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, reached during talks this week between President Reagan and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, is intended to send a clear message to the Soviet Union to stop its penetration into the Middle East, according to a senior American official.

It is also a warning to Syria, which is the main recipient of Soviet arms and other military assistance in the region, that it should urgently reconsider its persistent refusal to withdraw 40,000 of its troops from eastern Lebanon.

Although the official insisted that the US is not planning any joint offensive military actions with Israel, it is expected the accord will produce a new sense of assertiveness by Mr Shamir's Government. This could lead to further retaliatory strikes by Israel into Syrian-occupied Lebanon.

The Reagan Administration believes that this week's visits to Washington by Mr Shamir and President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon have laid the framework for a new US-led initiative for a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and in the longer term, reviving President Reagan's September 1, 1982, peace initiative.

US officials have described the new strategic cooperation agreement as one of the most

far-reaching accords ever reached with the Jewish state.

Details of this new strategic relationship will be worked out in Washington next month by the newly-established joint political-military committee. The agreement will cover joint military planning, joint naval and air force manoeuvres, the prepositioning of US military and medical supplies in Israel and the probable use of Haifa by the US Navy.

The Queen is aware of security risks during her planned visit to Jordan next spring, but a final decision on going depends on the advice of her ministers, the Queen's press secretary, Mr Michael Shea, said yesterday. The fears arise from the terror campaign being waged by an extremist Palestinian group.

Although Israel appears to gain most from the accord, it will have important military and political benefits for the US. "It makes sense for us to cooperate with one of the most proficient military powers in the world," one US official remarked.

By enhancing Israel's sense of security against Soviet penetration in the Middle East, the US hopes Mr Shamir's Government will show greater pragmatism on the issues of Israeli troop withdrawals from Lebanon, US arms sales to moderate

Arab states and the President's peace initiative.

Mr Shamir's public statements in Washington provided few signs that he was prepared to be more flexible on any of these points. However, US officials are confident that Israel genuinely wants to get its troops out of southern Lebanon and will be prepared to carry out a series of partial, unilateral withdrawals. But Mr Shamir made clear that a total Israeli withdrawal could only be simultaneously carried out with a pull-out of the 40,000 Syrian troops in eastern Lebanon.

Although Mr Shamir was insistent on keeping to the letter of the May 17 Israel-Lebanon agreement, a further pull-back of Israeli forces could be negotiated with the Lebanese Government within the context of that accord. Syria has strongly condemned this agreement and refused to pull any of its troops out.

US officials noted that President Gemayel had said after meeting President Reagan that he was prepared to go beyond the letter of the law in setting up appropriate mechanisms and conditions to achieve a withdrawal of all foreign forces from his country.

President Reagan also hopes the new agreement will make Mr Shamir's Government "more mature" in its attitude towards US arms sales to moderate Arab states.



Mr Walpole and the runaway carrier in the lounge of his home.

Runaway carrier wrecks houses

An 11-ton armoured personnel carrier ran out of control yesterday, crashing into three houses and ending up in the living room of a fourth. Several people were treated for shock.

The carrier, from Borden Camp, west Sussex, careered down Petersfield Road, Whitehill, Hampshire, demolishing a lamp post and took off the porch of the house of Mrs Alice Ottewill, aged 80.

The Army offered to rehouse in their married quarters anyone made homeless in the incident.

The carrier ended up embedded in the living room of Mrs Sylvia Walpole.

Another of the houses, clipped by the runaway vehicle was that of Mrs Marie Hunt, who is pregnant. Her husband George, aged 29, said: "I heard a big bang like a bomb going off and the whole house shuddered with everything moving."

"I could hear my wife screaming, and ran downstairs fearing she was trapped. There were cracks in the wall of the house you could put your hands through."

Mrs Ottewill said she was in her kitchen when she heard a bang. "I ran to see what it was and my front door was down, the windows were smashed and everything was broken."

There were two men in the carrier when the accident happened.



Wrecked front of one of the four houses damaged in the accident.

Village sealed after gang escapes trap

Hundreds of police officers, some armed, were last night searching a patch of dense woodland near Bristol for an armed gang which had escaped a police trap.

Officers armed with revolvers and shotguns had lain in wait at the village of Brockley, where it is thought the gang had planned to ambush a mail van.

As police moved in on the parked getaway vehicle, one of the four riders aimed a sawn-off shotgun at them. One policeman fired towards the car but it is thought no one was hit.

The gang fled for cover in the nearby Brockley Coombe woods. Police later recovered a weapon, masks and ammunition from the car, which was believed to be stolen.

As they started their search with helicopters hovering overhead, they closed all roads leading to the village, cordoned off an area a mile and a half in radius around it, and told villagers to stay indoors.

Police said: "Members of the public should not attempt to approach these men. They are extremely dangerous."

Mr David Groves, who runs Brockley Court old people's home, said: "A workman who saw what happened said he saw the police going towards these men."

"There was a shot and then it got very confusing. The gunmen jumped over a wall chased by police and dogs."

Mr James Sharples, assistant chief constable (crime) of Avon and Somerset Police said: "The operation went according to plan in that a major crime was prevented. The incident happened away from the public which police intended. An inquiry will be launched into why the shot was fired."

Three of the gang were said to be in their 20s, two white and one of mixed race. There was no description of the fourth.

Picket line truce opens way for NGA peace talks

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Crucial talks aimed at resolving the Stockport Messenger dispute, which has threatened to involve the entire printing industry, will resume on Monday after a peace initiative yesterday from the National Graphical Association (NGA).

After a night in which concessions came and went, the union pledged in court yesterday that it would end illegal mass picketing around the company's plants in Warrington and Bury for seven days.

The High Court in Manchester then decided it would adjourn until next Friday two court actions brought by the Messenger's chairman, Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah which arose out of the NGA's defiance of a court order halting the secondary action.

On Thursday night Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the NGA, offered to lift the picketing, if Mr Shah withdrew yesterday's court action which was taking place against the background of the legal seizure of the union's £10m funds. Despite the fact that Mr Shah went ahead with the hearing, the NGA told the court that it would stop the blockade.

The talks on Monday, at the

London offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, will seek to end the impasse which involves the union's demand for a closed shop and the reinstatement of six strikers.

Mr Joe Wade, the NGA general secretary, said last night: "I am very pleased indeed. That is what we have been looking for all the way through: to get a settlement of the dispute. He would stand by over the weekend for any preliminary contacts."

After the 10-minute hearing, Mr Shah said he had made it clear he was willing to postpone his action as long as the NGA had the grace to appear in court. It was not up to me to go to the courtroom and drop the action. I am grateful that we can at least get on with our meeting."

In a careful balancing act the TUC's general council yesterday urged all unions to identify areas where support could be given to the NGA. It also agreed to provide financial assistance to enable it to continue to carry out its "lawful" functions.

Mr Lew Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said: "We can do a lot without having the courts on the TUC's back."

TUC backs journalists in Dimpleby dispute

By Our Labour Reporter

Leaders of the National Union of Journalists yesterday won financial backing from the TUC as they continued to defy the law on secondary industrial action.

The General Council agreed to assist the NUJ with its £8,000 legal costs and agreed in principle that, in the event of court sanctions, it would help the union to carry out its "lawful" function on behalf of its members.

Mr David Dimpleby, the broadcaster and chairman of the Richmond and Twickenham Times group, yesterday said he would be seeking legal advice on Monday over whether he should be taking action because

of the union's apparent contempt of court.

The union told the Court of Appeal on Thursday that it could not obey an injunction stopping the action by its members over the transfer of printing from Mr Dimpleby's company to the non-union TBF printers in Nottingham.

Mr Dimpleby refused to say yesterday whether he would pursue a contempt of court claim, but the union continued to take measures against possible sequestration of its £1.3m assets by dispersing funds.

Mr Dimpleby said: "I don't want to get ahead of myself. I am also waiting to see if there are any other developments over the weekend ...

Tighter checks on candidates for honours lists

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister has agreed to a request from the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee that the system be tightened up to prevent suspicions of impropriety and backdoor political patronage. The new procedure has been in operation for some time but full details have not been made public.

The committee of Privy Counsellors was concerned that chairman of companies which donate to Conservative Party funds, who are honoured for their contribution to industry rather than for political services, could be suspected of receiving peerages or knight-



Scrutiny team: Lord Carr (left), Lord Shackleton and Lord Franks who recommended the new arrangement



Scrutiny team: Lord Carr (left), Lord Shackleton and Lord Franks who recommended the new arrangement

any repetition of the sale of honours associated with the premiership of David Lloyd George.

The new team of Privy Counsellors appointed to the scrutiny committee by Mr James Callaghan in the wake of Lord Wilson's notorious resignation honours list of 1976 - Lord Shackleton in the chair, Lord Franks and Lord Carr of Hadley - recommended that Mrs Margaret Thatcher adopt the new arrangement.

Under it, the Prime Minister or the Chief Whip must give the committee full personal details of individuals proposed for honours for any reason whose firms have contributed to

the Conservative or any other party, either in cash or kind. The committee receives a signed certificate containing the reasons for the nomination, plus details of any gifts or financial contributions made to the party concerned.

Lord Shackleton and his colleagues then make a judgment on the individual and decide if he or she is unsuitable. Clearly a criminal history would be a bar.

The full procedure may be made public next week when Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, will raise the matter in the Commons under the 10-minute rule. Continued on back page, col 8

THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
Produced in Scotland
Quality in an age of change.

New police strategy aims to mobilize public in fight against crime

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A new national police strategy to meet growing fears that the battle against crime is being lost, is disclosed in a Home Office circular to chief constables and police authorities. Behind the circular is the knowledge that the police cannot be expanded indefinitely to meet increasing demands on them, vividly illustrated by demonstrations over cruise missiles and industrial relations policies.

The big expansion in police, in accordance with Conservative election commitments, is to be curbed. There is to be new emphasis on policing by consent, taking local views into account. Chief constables will be more accountable to the local community and the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan.

The police service is now up to strength at 121,000 officers in England and Wales, but chief constables want more officers to meet growing demands. This gives Mr Brittan an added lever to ensure they follow criteria he is laying down. HM Inspectors will advise him whether resources are directed in accordance with properly determined objectives and priorities.

To meet their statutory duty of securing an adequate and efficient force, police authorities are being urged to take into account not only questions of resources but the wishes of the local community. And the

Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, now before parliament, will put local consultation on a statutory basis.

The cost of the police service has risen from £1,400m in 1970-71 (estimated at today's prices) to £2,400m in 1982-83. Since 1971, the circular says, police strength, excluding civilians, has increased by about 24,000. The number of serious crimes recorded since 1971 has practically doubled.

This week, the Association of Chief Police Officers expressed concern that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, as now drafted, "makes considerable demands upon already hard-pressed police resources."

The circular says that Mr Brittan will not normally allow more recruitment unless he is satisfied that the force's existing resources are used to best advantage. Specific cases for additional posts will need to be made. The Home Secretary also wants more civilians to free police officers for operational duties.

The circular also reflects a crisis facing the whole criminal justice system.

In real terms, taking inflation into account, there has been a threefold increase in overall spending on law and order in the past 20 years. Yet recorded crime has risen by 200 per cent in relation to population size in the past 20 years.

The police clear-up rate has

fallen from 44 per cent in 1962 to 37 per cent in 1982. Even so, the number of offenders found guilty has increased from one and a quarter million in the early 1960s to well over two million in 1981. The prison population has risen by about 50 per cent in the same period.

The circular marks a big switch to new crime prevention strategies and community policing, after discussions, led by Sir Brian Cubbon, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office, with officials from other ministries. The new strategy also embodies reforms suggested by Lord Scarman after the 1981 riots.

The Home Office circular says it is necessary to work in cooperation with other public services, voluntary bodies and the public themselves. A new circular on crime prevention is to be issued soon. The circular is a recognition that previous policy has failed: neither the police, the courts, the prison service or probation service can tackle crime successfully. The community must be mobilized to ensure this the new consultation arrangements and the police authorities, sometimes drawn into conflict with police chiefs, are seen as vital.

Plans now being formulated by Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in keeping with the aims of the circular.

Scores pledge cash for Greenpeace fine

By Tony Samuels

Greenpeace, the environmental action group, said yesterday that it had been overwhelmed by telephone calls from people offering contributions towards the £50,000 fine levied by a High Court judge on Thursday for contempt of court.

By lunchtime scores of pledges totalling several thousand pounds had been received at the headquarters of Greenpeace Ltd, at 36 Graham Street, Islington, north London.

The group decided to abandon its initial resolution to pay the fine itself. Instead it will launch a formal appeal today.

Several pledges were for hundreds of pounds and one was for £1,500. At least one well-known musician offered to organize a benefit concert.

Greenpeace would not say whether it would continue trying to interfere with the pipe discharging waste from British Nuclear Fuel's processing plant at Sellafield, formerly Windscale, in Cumbria.

Mr Justice Goffman said that the group's assets would be seized if it continued to be in contempt of court by breaking an order not to do so.

The assets were said to be £70,000 in bank accounts and ships at £264,000.

Greenpeace was founded in 1971-72 by Mr David McTaggart, a Canadian, after protests against nuclear weapons tests in Amchika, Alaska, and the French-Pacific.

Recognizing that court action

Anti-vandal paint kills 20 birds

More than 20 robins, blackbirds and sparrows died after struggling to free themselves from non-drying anti-vandal paint on top of council garages. Some tore off wings and legs as they frantically fought to escape.

Mr Bill Cottingham, a chief inspector with the RSPCA who was called to the scene in Wickfield Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire yesterday criticized council workers and blamed them for the deaths. "They had plastered the paint on half an inch thick and every bird that landed there became stuck."

Motorist dies in collision

Mr Gary McGonagle, aged 26, died yesterday when the car he was driving was involved in a collision with a motorcyclist being followed by police. Mr McGonagle, of Malvern Place, Cheltenham, was driving through a crossroads near Cheltenham racecourse.

Opera cancelled

The Royal Opera House cancelled last night's performance of Massenet's *Esclarmonde*, because Dame Joan Sutherland, the Australian soprano, has a throat infection. Instead, there was a performance of *Madam Butterfly*.

Life for arson

A security guard and former policeman Kirpal Singh, aged 43, of Bedford Lane, Feltham, north London, was jailed for life by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for setting fire to his home with six members of his family inside.

Death fall

Miss Emma Smith, aged 27, a barrister of Fulham, London, died accidentally in a 250ft fall at Lundy Island, off the North Devon coast, the North and West Devonshire coroner found yesterday.

CND to debate freeze

By Pat Healy

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament will decide at its annual conference in Sheffield this weekend whether to follow its leadership in backing a nuclear freeze campaign and whether it should campaign nationally for members of the armed forces to join CND.

The conference will also revive last year's argument over Nato.

A significant proportion of the membership, which has increased by 60 per cent in the last year, believe a freeze would

French keeping an eye on UHT milk delay

by Mark Rosselli

The French reacted with dignity yesterday to news that their own delaying tactics had been used by the British against the first consignment of French long-life milk, which is in a customs shed in Newhaven undergoing indefinite "tests".

Mr Oliver Dubouquoy, assistant agricultural attaché at the French Embassy in London, said: "I understand the position of the British government. The Government wants to apply the regulations and see that the milk respects the standards."

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National Gallery spends £81,000 on Bilbao view

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The National Gallery spent £81,000 at Christie's yesterday on its first eighteenth century painting from Spain, other than a Goya. It is a view of a Spanish harbour with some well-dressed society figures in the foreground painted on panel by Luis Paret and dated 1784. It comes from a series of harbour views and the gallery has succeeded in identifying the location - which Christie's had failed to do.

It is a "View of El Arenal de Bilbao", by which name the painting will in future be known, according to the gallery. A second Paret view of a harbour scene, which was bought in 1783 was included in the sale and the gallery had hoped to secure both. After the other sold for £59,400, it concentrated all its resources on securing the second. The Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox gallery bid on its behalf.

A spokesman for the gallery said Paret had been a contemporary of Goya and his work was rare. This painting would be hung with the Goyas.

The top price in the sale was for a pretty little flower picture on copper by Ambrosius Bos-



Royal visitor: The Princess of Wales opening a training centre for handicapped adults in Wantage, Oxfordshire, yesterday. The £276,000 centre will cater for 34 trainees.

Hunt's fear for Parole Board

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Revised parole procedures announced by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, this week were criticized yesterday by Lord Hunt, former chairman of the Parole Board.

He says the independence of the board will be reduced and its hands will be tied under the new arrangements.

The procedures, which Mr Brittan disclosed in a parliamentary written answer, are designed to "take account of the general public concern about the increase in violent crime and the growing criticism of the gap between the length of sentence passed and length of sentence actually served in certain cases."

He has decided to use his discretion "to ensure that prisoners serving sentences of over five years for offences of violence or drug trafficking will be granted parole only when release under supervision for a few months before the end of

the sentence is likely to reduce the long-term risk to the public or in circumstances which are generally exceptional."

Mr Brittan said he had consulted the board about how the objective might best be achieved in a way that ensures the crucial role of the board in the parole scheme is maintained.

The board expressed a wish to continue to see all of the cases that it now scrutinizes, in order to give full consideration to the circumstances of each individual prisoner.

"Accordingly I have agreed that the present practice should continue on the understanding that the reviews will take account of the policy contained in this statement," Mr Brittan said, adding that acceptance or rejection of a parole board recommendation was a matter for him.

He also intends that murderers of police or prison

First magnetic body scanner on show

By Thomson Prestice, Medical Reporter

The world's first magnetic resonance equipment designed to investigate the biochemistry of the human body was launched yesterday at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

The equipment will be used in research which may lead to improved treatment for such ailments as heart disease, kidney failure, strokes and vascular disease. Already it has significantly helped a patient suffering from McArdle's Syndrome, a rare muscular disease.

Magnetic resonance uses high-power magnets, creating a magnetic field 30,000 times stronger than the Earth's, to study the biochemistry of human diseases without harm or pain to the patient.

The magnet is contained in a cylinder almost eight ft long and will be able to examine a section of the whole body of a patient. Data is fed from it on to a visual monitor screen, producing graphs and "pictures" of the body's biochemistry.

Dr George Radda, of the biochemistry department of Oxford University who has led the development of equipment, said: "We can tell immediately from the screen which area of the body needs treatment."

In the treatment of strokes, the equipment could determine whether or not damage is reversible.

The first patients will be referred to the unit next month by clinicians as volunteers to assist research. But Dr Radda said: "We are not making promises to them, because for the time being this is a tool for research, not diagnosis."

Ministers adamant over rate powers

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Conservative backbench rebels have been privately warned that the Government is determined to stand by its controversial manifesto pledge to take general powers for the control of all local authority rate levels.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to publish the local government finance legislation in the week before Christmas, which would break for Christ- mas, allowing for a second reading debate towards the end of January.

But the Tory shires - among others - are up in arms against the Government's plans to qualify their independence, and intensive lobbying is making a strong impression on Tory backbenchers.

Some wilder estimates put the size of potential Tory revolt against the Government as high as 60 MPs. A more realistic figure would be below 30 MPs.

Nevertheless, it is confidently predicted that the backbenchers of the Lords will exercise the general reserve powers under which the rates of all local authorities would be covered by the process which has become known as rate-capping.

Ridley unveils Bill to take over London Transport

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government yesterday published its London Regional Transport Bill and so took the first step towards wresting control of the capital's buses and Tubes from Mr Kenneth Livingstone and his fellow politicians at the Greater London Council.

Ministers indicated that their enthusiasm for ending municipal "interference" in London Transport took precedence even over cutting public spending, an ambition the new system is unlikely to achieve for some time.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, acknowledged there would be no "massive" savings and that at least initially there could be a significant rise in the subsidy for public transport in London from the general taxpayer.

Mr Livingstone denounced the Bill as a "free for all" seizing on the Government's vulnerable point, the future of free and concessionary fares for pensioners. The London boroughs would not step in and continue the GLC's generosity to pensioners, he forecast.

London Transport took a hands-off approach to the new Bill. Its chairman Dr Keith Bright, said it was up to the politicians to decide whether the Government or the GLC should control it.

The Bill, which the Government hopes will become law in time to make 1985-86 the new authority's first year of operation, severs the link between London Transport and the GLC. The Labour-controlled GLC is supposed to be abolished in 1986.

Buses and Tubes, organized in two separate companies, are to be run by a board of "businesslike" managers nominated by the Government, with a duty to break even on the basis of an annual subsidy similar to that given to British Rail.

Mr Ridley has built in great scope for privatization; private

Unsure Kasparov offers a draw

By Harry Golembek, Chess Correspondent

The postponed fifth game between Garry Kasparov and Viktor Korchnoi in the Acorn Computers world Chess Championship semi-finals on Thursday at the Great Eastern Hotel, London, ended in a draw after 21 moves, making the match score Korchnoi 3 Kasparov 2.

Kasparov played the Catalan System for the first time in a championship and obtained some pressure, but Korchnoi never really appeared to be in difficulties.

A sign that Kasparov was not really feeling at home in the position was that he took considerably more time on his moves than his opponent.

At the end of the game he had taken one hour and 40 minutes, against his opponent's hour and 10 minutes.

After Korchnoi, with the black pieces, had made his 21st move Kasparov offered him a draw which Korchnoi at once accepted.

Kasparov's offer of a draw after his opponent had moved was not in accord with the rules of chess.

Cash pledge by Yoko Ono

Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon, the musician, said at Heathrow airport yesterday that she would give a large sum to the Strawberry Fields Salvation Home in Liverpool.

Before returning to New York after a five-day visit to Britain, she said that the gift could be more than £2m. Lennon referred to the home in the Beatles' song, "Strawberry Fields Forever".

Ban on public illegal, health authority told

By our Social Services Correspondent

Brent Health Authority in London has been told that a special meeting it is to hold on Monday to vote through a £250,000 government spending cut will be illegal and its decisions void.

Mr Nina Talmage, the Conservative chairman of the authority, decided to bar the public from the meeting after last month's meeting was broken up by protesters to prevent a vote on the spending cut.

But the London borough of Brent's director of law, after taking counsel's opinion from Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, has told the health authority that it can exclude the public only once disorder has taken place within a meeting.

However Mr David Pashley, district administrator of the health authority, said legal advice he had received was that the chairman was acting within her powers in barring the public.

The meeting would go ahead, he said, unless an injunction was served preventing it, or the health authority members voted at the start of the meeting to admit the public.

Beer allegation

Thirty two people were remanded on bail at Widnes Magistrates' Court, Cheshire, yesterday on charges relating to an alleged conspiracy to steal beer from Greenall Whitley, the brewers.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$21.25, Belgium £10.00, Canada \$25.75, Denmark \$20.00, France \$20.00, Germany \$20.00, Greece \$20.00, Hong Kong \$20.00, India \$20.00, Italy \$20.00, Japan \$20.00, Korea \$20.00, Malaysia \$20.00, Mexico \$20.00, New Zealand \$20.00, Norway \$20.00, Portugal \$20.00, Singapore \$20.00, South Africa \$20.00, Spain \$20.00, Sweden \$20.00, Switzerland \$20.00, Taiwan \$20.00, Thailand \$20.00, United Kingdom \$20.00, USA \$20.00



Mr Jenkin (left) and Mr Cunningham: Preparing for battle.

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Bruce Lee cleared of 11 killings, but convictions on 15 fire victims stand

Bruce Lee, the self-confessed Humberston arsonist, was cleared in the Court of Appeal yesterday of causing the death of eleven elderly men in a fire at an old people's home.

But the decision to quash Lee's convictions for arson and manslaughter in this incident will not mean that he will be freed. He is still detained in a mental hospital for 10 other fires which killed another 15 people.

After a short adjournment during which Mr Harry Ognall QC, Lee's counsel, saw him in the cells below the court, Mr Ognall returned to court and announced that Lee would withdraw his two remaining applications for leave to appeal.

The withdrawn applications related to fires at Askew Avenue, Hull, in June 1973 and West Dock Avenue, Hull, in January 1977. Lord Justice Ackner, sitting with Mr Justice Glidewell and Mr Justice Leggett, said they would be formally dismissed and the court would give a full judgment next week.

Quashing Lee's convictions of starting a fire at Wensley Lodge, Hull on January 5, 1977, and the manslaughter of the eleven men, Lord Justice Ackner said the conviction were not safe. The main reason was the "unsatisfactory nature of the forensic evidence".

The judge said that the Home Office Scientist, Mr Graham Devenport, should have suggested to the 1977 inquiry into the cause of the fire that it might have been deliberately started with paraffin. If that had been suggested, the construction of the room where the fire was

discovered could have been checked more closely to see if Lee's story about using paraffin and paper to start the fire was supported by the scientific evidence.

Lord Justice Ackner said the court was making no criticism of Det Supt Ronald Sagar, the policeman who interviewed Lee after his arrest.

"We have no doubt that Lee made the statements, both oral and written; that they were voluntarily and properly obtained by Det Supt Sagar and that he recorded them," the judge said. Although the prosecution case would have been strong, based on Lee's confessions to the police and others including his own solicitor, the forensic evidence had been "unsatisfactory". It was not safe to allow the convictions to stand.

Lee, aged 23, of Irton House, Cavell Place, Hull, admitted all

11 fires and the manslaughter of 26 people when he appeared before Mr Justice Tudor Evans at Leeds Crown Court in January 1981. He was ordered to be detained indefinitely in a mental hospital. But after *The Sunday Times* investigated his case he began to protest his innocence.

The Court of Appeal hearing, which lasted nine days, opened with Lee seeking leave to appeal against all his convictions. After being refused leave to appeal over fires at homes in Selby Street and Troutbeck House, Hull, Lee's lawyers withdrew six other applications and concentrated on the last three cases.

The court had been told that a committee of inquiry into the Wensley Lodge fire decided that it had been started by a plumber's blowtorch accidentally setting light to ceiling boards.

But, after Lee confessed to the police and told them he started the fire with paraffin, inquiries were reopened. During the appeal, defence experts said that the facts of the fire did not fit Lee's story, which he had denied telling police.

After the hearing Lee's lawyers said they would consider asking the Home Secretary to look into the cases, on which he was refused leave to appeal.

Yesterday's court decision means that Lee no longer holds the title "Britain's most prolific killer" given to him by *The Guinness Book of Records*. With 15 deaths still on his record Lee is now equal with Dennis Nilsen, recently convicted of killing 15 people.



Lee: Denied confession.



Family reunion: Police Constable Bill Hopkins, from East Grinstead, organized a surprise for his wife Sylvia at Surrey police headquarters, Guildford, yesterday. He arranged for their son Peter to fly from the United States and play the villain on the last day of his 13-week training course with Shane, his new alsatian.

Drug safety for elderly tightened

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

The Committee on Safety of Medicines is to tighten the licensing system for new drugs widely used by the elderly after the Open controversy, the Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday.

Drug companies will have to carry out studies on how the elderly cope with the drugs after evidence that Open accumulated in their bodies.

Open, used to treat arthritis, was withdrawn in August last year, after it was linked with the deaths of 76 people and after 3,800 people were reported to have suffered significant side effects.

BBC plans nuclear war play

By David Hewson

The BBC is planning a 90-minute drama on the aftermath of a nuclear attack among people in Sheffield. The play, due to be shown in about a year, was commissioned 18 months ago, before the controversy over the American production *The Day After* which will be seen on independent television on December 10.

Mr Michael Jackson, producer of the BBC play, said yesterday: "We have no axe to grind. We have talked to people from CND, people from the Home Office and scientific advisers in Britain and America, to try to come up with the most likely course of events after a nuclear attack."

The play, called *Threads* and written by Barry Hines, the author of *Ker*, starts five weeks before a nuclear attack and ends

15 years after a bomb has dropped on neighbouring Rotherham. Sheffield City Council, which has declared the city a nuclear-free zone, has offered to cooperate with the play's production in the city, which starts in February.

Mr Jackson said that Sheffield was selected as the site of the play because it is where Mr Hines lives, and is in the centre of Britain.

Both Mr Jackson and Mr Hines took part in a home defence college course for local government workers on dealing with post-nuclear Britain, and some scenes of the play tackle the administration of society after the bomb. The play will also describe the effects on the local economy, climate and agriculture.

Britain's teenagers are overwhelmingly pessimistic about the probability of a nuclear war, but also largely ignorant about the nature of nuclear weapons, according to a survey.

A survey published by *TV Times* to mark next week's showing of *The Day After* has revealed that more than half the people aged between 15 and 18 who were questioned thought that a nuclear war would occur in their lifetimes, and 70 per cent thought that one was inevitable one day.

But the 422 teenagers interviewed put little faith in unilateral disarmament. Nearly three quarters felt that it would have no effect on the policies of other countries, but nearly two thirds thought that the presence of nuclear weapons in Britain was no protection from attack.

Witnesses given cash by accused doctor

A doctor accused of serious professional misconduct said yesterday that he had given money to witnesses in his General Medical Council hearing.

Dr Dasrath Rai, aged 61, giving evidence to the professional conduct committee, admitted that after the hearing on Thursday he was approached by drug addicts.

"The first person approached me had no bus fare to go home. I gave him £1."

"A second person came up to me. He was from Worthing and had no money. I gave him £5."

It is alleged that Dr Rai sold prescriptions for hard drugs for £10 or £15 from his former private practice in Bateman Street, Soho, London, other than for bona fide treatment.

Dr Rai told the committee that he had told patients of the dangers of injecting by using Dicanel tablets, a heroin substitute.

"The people that died, injected. They didn't die from the treatment I tried to carry out."

Dr Rai said that he prescribed Dicanel because it was the most convenient drug to wear people off heroin.

"If I found a patient buying drugs on the black market I would take him off my list immediately."

He said that his initial fee was £30, which included a consultation and prescription.

Dr Rai said that he thought he took between £400 and £500 a week from March to October, 1982 - not £1,000 a week.

He denied that he had shown irresponsibility in his treatment of two patients who died.

The hearing continues

Dry summer seals Pakamac's fate

By Alan Hamilton

Pakamac, a name synonymous for the past quarter-century with the vagaries of the British weather, has fallen into the hands of the receiver.

By a cruel irony, the very unpredictability of British rain on which the company built its fortune was in the end its downfall; this year's long dry summer dealt sales a mortal blow.

The firm was based, inevitably, in Manchester, the English capital of wet weather. This week two accountants from the firm of Deloitte Haskins and Sells moved into the company's headquarters at Warwick Mill in Macclesfield, north Manchester, to study the books in the hope of selling the business as a going concern.

Pakamac's directors derived little satisfaction from the fact

that Mr Frank Mycroft, one of the receivers, arrived at Warwick Mill to assume control of the business with a tightly-rolled Pakamac in his briefcase. From a heyday in the 1950s of selling 48,000 plastic raincoats every week, sales have collapsed to fewer than 4,000 a week.

The company, which has 185 workers, has not made profit since 1977. The original plastic raincoat, invented by a Mancunian called Cohen in the early 1950s, accounts for barely 10 per cent of production. And they are all made in China.

In recent years the company's principal line has been a folding nylon raincoat, actually made in Manchester. But this summer, with few showers on the horizon for weeks on end, demand collapsed.

That was a body blow to Pakamac, which had started the year with a miserable winter and a disappointing spring.

Pakamac had tried recently to reduce its dependence on fluctuating sales governed by summer showers; last year two Pakamac directors, Mr Graham White and Mr Keith Manley, bought the business back from its parent company and tried to introduce more fashionable rainwear lines, but their scheme was ultimately unsuccessful.

When the Pakamac, essentially a plastic bag with sleeves, was introduced in the 1950s it cost 7s 6d and gained immediate popularity with office workers, walkers, golfers and housewives, as a light and convenient alternative to the standard belted gaberdine raincoat of the day. The Chinese-made version is still only £3.95, but the Manchester-made nylon foldaway retails at £13.95.



Pakamac at the height of its popularity in the 1960s.

Severn Bridge critics win reassurance

Mr John Stradling Thomas, Minister of State at the Welsh Office, yesterday denied allegations that the government was "burying its head in the sand" over the problem of the Severn Bridge.

The Government, he said, appreciated the need to strengthen the bridge, to improve alternative routes and to start work on a second crossing of the Severn estuary. Options put forward by engineering consultants were being assessed.

Aid plan for uncommercial new books

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

Book publishers and the Arts Council are working on the formation of a Literature Investment Trust which would subsidise the publication of uncommercial books.

The provisional estimates are that £150,000 would come from the Arts Council and £40,000 from publishers, the secretary general of the council, Mr Luke Rittner, said yesterday.

ITV microcomputer may be launched

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The independent television companies are to decide in about 10 days whether to compete with the success of the BBC Microcomputer and launch their own product.

Although several microcomputer companies have been investigated, including Transam, which is based in London, there is a division of opinion among the executives of the television companies. Those who oppose the scheme fear that a commitment to one product would rob them of advertisements for competing products.

The Independent Television Companies Association's council meets on December 12. Talks with the Independent

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Aftermath of two jumbo jet disasters

Evidence points to human error as likely cause of Madrid crash

From Richard Wigg and William Norris, Madrid

Human error is emerging as the most likely cause of the crash of the Boeing 747 in the vicinity of Madrid last Sunday, which killed 181 lives. Earlier theories of mechanical failure, based on a witness report of an engine fire and explosion, are now being ruled out.

Expert examination of the wreckage which still lie scattered in the stoney hillside 12 miles from the capital, has found no trace of pre-crash fire.

Evidence gathered from the Traffic Control Centre at Barajas, and from the recovered flight data recorder, shows that the Avianca Flight 11 began its final approach to Barajas airport at too steep an angle, having arrived at the outer marker some 1,600ft too high. At the point of impact the aircraft was also some four miles to the right of its normal flight path.

The usual approach to runway 33 at Barajas runs along

the valley of the Jarama river, which has escarpments on either side. The pilot's course deviation took him over a range of low hills some 400ft above the valley floor. It was on the crest of one of these that the Boeing touched, bounced and finally stalled to crash and explode into flames on impact.

Radio communications with the pilot, Captain Tulio Hernandez, aged 54, were perfectly normal until seconds before the crash. Nothing more was heard after Captain Hernandez had acknowledged instructions to change frequency and contact the airport tower. Examination of the cockpit voice recorder after this point is proving difficult, because the voices of the crew are obscured by the

"pull up" alarm of the Ground Proximity Warning System.

There is speculation here that Captain Hernandez, who had worked for Avianca for 38 years and had no previous incidents in 35,000 flying hours, might have collapsed at the controls. Unfortunately, the pilot's body is among the 86 victims still awaiting identification, and no post-mortem examination has yet been possible.

Those travelling in the front of the aircraft received the most severe injuries. Those in the rear were found in many cases still strapped in their seats and appeared to have died from asphyxiation.

Spanish air traffic controllers have come under criticism after previous accidents, and on this occasion questions are being asked in the local press about the controllers' failure to warn the pilot of his wrong height and position.

The Paracuellos Centre is

equipped with both primary and secondary radar, and would therefore in theory have a clear visual record of these factors. However, a new system was brought into operation in September, and teething troubles with such equipment are not unusual.

It may be several months before the report of the official inquiry into the crash is completed. In the meantime lawyers are already investigating ways in which the victims' families can claim compensation. Under the Warsaw Convention, since the flight was not due to stop in the United States, maximum compensation payable by the insurers would be \$20,000 (£13,000) per life.

However, if lawyers can establish that the crash was due to wilful misconduct, damages are unlimited. Such a claim has only once succeeded - against Pan-American Airways after a crash at Pago Pago in 1974.

KAL relatives press for much more

From David Watts, Tokyo

Korean relatives of victims of the Korean Airlines disaster last September have joined their Japanese counterparts in turning down offers of compensation from the airline. The Boeing 747 was shot down by Soviet fighters.

A package offer of \$100,000 (£66,000) per family has been rejected in an atmosphere of growing antagonism towards the airline, particularly in Japan where its initial offer of "sympathy" money was seen as insulting.

The KAL offer actually exceeds the international agreed maximum unconditional compensation of \$75,000 but the precedent set in Japan has soured the atmosphere.

In negotiations with a group formed by families of the 28 Japanese victims on Flight 007 compensation for funeral and

other expenses have been agreed but beyond that the battle-lines have been drawn in what is likely to be a legal contest lasting years.

Lawyers are now in London consulting Lloyds, who insured the aircraft, about compensation.

In Japan up to 100m yen (about £285,000) is offered paid out immediately after a road accident to the victims of the family as a token of sympathy. Such sums are handed over irrespective of any subsequent legal proceedings, though if the initial payment is seen to be negligently then the court may take that circumstances into

account. Therefore the KAL offer of about one fifth that sum has had a decidedly negative effect in a country where the emphasis is on good faith rather than litigation.

The case against KAL is further complicated by an outstanding claim for compensation against the airline from the Murmansk incident of five years ago, when a Soviet fighter fired on a Korean airliner. KAL offered only 5m yen while the family of Mr Yoshiyake Sugano claimed 187m yen in the Tokyo District Court.

That suit is still outstanding. So far KAL has only admitted that there was a failure of the gyroscope in the Murmansk incident, but has provided no further information so that the family's chance of proving the gross negligence necessary to

win more than the minimum pay-out seems remote.

The absence of the flight recorder in the case of Flight 007 raises similar difficulties in the present claims.

No claim from Japan and South Korea, however, is likely to match the \$20m suit brought against the airline by Litton Industries and the South Korean and American governments by the widow of a Columbia University Professor Dr Jong Jin Lim, a physicist.

● Jets scrambled: South Korean air force jets scrambled yesterday when nine Soviet bombers flew off the east coast of Korea towards the Tushima Strait separating Japan and Korea, a South Korean Air force spokesman said (AP reports).

Astronauts want extra day in space

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The six-man crew of the space shuttle Columbia will be told this weekend whether they can remain in space an extra day. Their nine-day mission was originally scheduled to end next Wednesday, but the astronauts would like more time to get through their heavy workload in the European SpaceLab.

Apart from some communications difficulties the mission is going well. Officials at the Space Control Centre in Houston, Texas, are studying the shuttle's fuel and oxygen reserves, and the scientific benefits to be gained from extending the mission. Scientists, both on board Columbia and on the ground, would welcome an extra day as some experiments are not yet completed. Several tests were spoiled early in the flight when equipment failed.

The astronauts have told Houston they would like nothing better than another day in orbit, as they feel harassed as they try to finish their crowded programme.

An indication of the pressure on the astronauts was the irritated reaction of Dr Robert Parker, one of the scientists working in SpaceLab, to an instruction from the ground. Dr Parker was in the middle of an experiment with another astronaut when an instruction came through to begin another. He said sharply: "You guys should recognize there are two people up here trying to get all your stuff done. I think you might be quiet until we get one of the other of them done."

Iran seeks doctors from abroad

From Richard Dowling, Tehran

Iran is trying hard to attract doctors to come and work here and at the same time improve its image abroad.

More than 500 doctors from all over the world attended a five-day medical seminar in the Hilton Hotel in Tehran at Iran's expense.

No Israeli doctors were invited and there were no Americans, though there were about 10 Iranians who had been living in the United States. Some of them agreed to return to work in Iran for one month a year, and one who had worked in Houston, Texas 23 years said he was considering returning home for good.

So keen is the Government to attract doctors that Dr Hadi Mansafi, the Health Minister, said it would accept white South African doctors in Iran.

There are about 15,000 doctors working in Iran, including 2,000 Indians. More than half the doctors work in Tehran, which has less than a quarter of the population of 40 million. All doctors are encouraged to work at the war front for at least one month a year.

Apart from trying to attract the doctors, the conference was also a propaganda exercise to show, sometimes with appalling explicitness the injuries caused

in the three-year-old war with Iraq. Diplomatic sources estimate that Iran has suffered 600,000 dead and wounded. The doctors were shown round Tehran hospitals with ward after ward filled with young men with mangled or missing limbs.

Many of the papers at the conference were selected to show that the Islamic Republic has overcome Western social diseases, such as alcoholism, venereal disease, but Western doctors remained sceptical about some of the statistics.

The conference was the first big international event held in Iran since the revolution.

Perjury by environment official

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mrs Rita Lavelle, a former Environmental Protection Agency official, has been found guilty of perjury and of impeding congressional investigations into her handling of the agency's programme to clean up hazardous waste sites.

Mrs Lavelle, aged 36, who headed the EPA's so-called Superfund, was found guilty on four charges. But the jury found her not guilty of a fifth charge that she lied to a Congressional committee when she said under oath that she had not injected political considerations into her decisions on hazardous waste.

The US district court Judge set January 9 as the date for sentencing her.

She was dismissed on February 7.



Perjury: Mrs Rita Lavelle leaving the Washington court after being found guilty of perjury

PARLIAMENT December 2 1983

Time limit on damages claims

SCOTLAND

The Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Bill, sponsored by Mr Alexander Eadie (Midlothian, Lab), obtained its second reading in the Commons after Mr Peter Fraser, Solicitor General for Scotland, had said it was an important measure of law reform. It represented a significant step forward in making the law relating to claims for personal injuries more readily understood and more likely to be helpful to those who required its protection.

Mr Eadie, explaining that the Bill would amend the law on time limits for bringing actions for damages for personal injuries or death, said it would cover not only the more obvious cases like road accidents but conditions which might not immediately be thought of as personal injury - such as those resulting from working in an unhealthy environment. Some industrial diseases could take a long time to become apparent.

Often it had to be left until death to prove what could not be proven in life and that was a harrowing experience for all.

His Bill was based on the Scottish Law Commission's draft Bill. There

had been consultations with many interested parties. It restated the basic principle, though more clearly, that no action for personal injuries should be brought after three years from the date of the injury or the date that the claimant became aware of an injury.

There had to come a time when the book had to be closed. Defendants' records might be lost or destroyed and it was unfair and

incumbent to require an employer to keep records too long simply to guard against a possible claim. The evidence of witnesses could be less reliable as time went by. His Bill would also help claims to be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn (Perth and Kinross, C) said there must be a limit on the time in which actions could be brought. The recovery of the injured person was psychologi-

cally united in many cases with the settlement of the claim. No settlement, no recovery was a constant characteristic in repatriation cases.

Mr Martin O'Neill, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland (Clackmannan, Lab) said the Opposition supported the Bill which would make a contribution to industries where there was a danger of injury or debilitating disease because individuals concerned were going about their business in hazardous conditions.

Mr Fraser said the Government supported the Bill. An open-ended time limit for actions would not be of major benefit even to claimants. Witnesses' recollections would become hazy and sometimes useless in ascertaining events.

Bill against power sharing adjourned

ULSTER

A Bill seeking to end power-sharing in the Northern Ireland Assembly was talked out in the Commons by Mr Nicholas Scott, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Expressing regret at the withdrawal of the Official Unionist members from the assembly, following the brutal regime of violence which Northern Ireland had endured, he said it was precisely

the objective of the terrorists who committed the Derry atrocity to weaken and destabilise democratic institutions in the province.

Mr Kenneth Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone, UUP) said power sharing was contrary to the principles of British democracy. The Bill sought to transform the Assembly into a structure acceptable to Unionists, in accordance with the Government's election policy, and would make their views known.

It never occurred to the Government and Opposition front benches at Westminster to share power in the government of the United Kingdom. His party had never believed that insistence on power-sharing in Ulster was genuinely aimed at the extension of democratic devolution to the Province.

They could not accept any structure by which those who lost an election had a veto over those who won. His Bill proposed to make it possible to devolve administration, however gradual, to the Assembly without attaching to that devolution the veto of power-sharing, and would ensure some prospect of a future for the body.

The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, DUP) said the only barrier that stood between a deal between London and Dublin was the elected Government of Northern Ireland, where the Unionists had a majority and could make their views known.

Mr James Molyneux (Lagan Valley, UUP) said the assembly would be dramatically increased if the Government accepted the reasonable and practical proposals in the Bill.

Mr Clive Selley, an Opposition

spokesman on Northern Ireland (Hammerington, Lab) said it was a pity that the assembly was not a good idea for anyone. The solution, at the end of the day, must involve an all-Ireland dimension.

Mr Nicholas Scott said it was too early to say it would not be in due course be possible to produce proposals for the devolution of power to the assembly. The need for widespread acceptance of the government of Northern Ireland was a recognition of the realities of life in the Province and not just a matter of political argument.

What the Bill in effect would do was to provide for a return to the system that existed in 1972 and which brought about the frustration and ultimately many of the problems they faced today.

There could be no stable or effective government in Northern Ireland that did not have a substantial measure of support in both parts of the community.

The Government still believed that the assembly, as it was regulated by the 1962 Act, offered the most hopeful framework for initiating a satisfactory solution of the Northern Ireland's political difficulties.

The debate was adjourned.

Wheel clamps

Mr Douglas Hard, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a written Commons answer that in London up to November 18, 22,124 wheel clamp release charges of £19.50 each had yielded £431,418.



Down and out: Mr Romulo, "an old engine in need of spare parts", after announcing his resignation.

Sick, worn-out politician wants to quit at 85

Manila (AP) - Weeping and describing himself as a sick, tired, old man, Mr Carlos Romulo the Philippine Foreign Minister, said he will retire on his eighty-fifth birthday next month. He recommended Mr Arturo Tolentino, a fellow assembly member as his successor.

He tried to retire on his eighty-fourth birthday last January but President Marcos refused to accept his resignation.

Mr Romulo has just undergone a series of medical tests and is due to have more.

"The doctor says I am an old engine that needs spare parts and he says I cannot survive with my spare parts", he said.

Besides heart disease, high blood pressure, and a nervous disorder that could lead to Parkinson's disease, he also suffers from a bad kidney, hernia and a blocked prostate.

He sent a letter of resignation yesterday to President Marcos, who is in the northern resort city of Baguio.

Denmark opposes missiles

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Denmark has become the second member of Nato to oppose the deployment of US nuclear missiles in Western Europe, the other objector being Greece.

On Thursday night, a left-wing majority in the Folketing (parliament) led by the opposition Social Democrats, forced the Conservative-led minority coalition against its will to divorce Denmark officially from Nato missile policy at the next ministerial meeting of the alliance in Brussels on December 9.

The motion, passed by 87 votes to 75, also called for Denmark to work for a resumption of medium-range nuclear missile reduction talks in Geneva. It was the latest in a series of parliamentary votes forcing the Danish Government to distance itself from Nato.

In a separate motion the Opposition called upon the Government to vote for two anti-missile resolutions in the United Nations later this month. Denmark itself is not to receive any of the new missiles.

Fears of the 14-month old right-wing Government falling, unleashing premature elections, were stilled when an opposition motion of no confidence in Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Foreign Minister, was thwarted.

Kohl rejects Pravda accusation

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Bonn yesterday rejected Pravda's accusation that Chancellor Helmut Kohl had distorted the contents of President Andropov's letter to him, saying the Chancellor did not retract a single word of his interpretation.

A spokesman said Dr Kohl, like other Western leaders who had received similar letters, had quoted Mr Andropov correctly. The Soviet side had to be asked why it did not stand by what it itself had said in the Andropov letter.

In another development, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, called on Nato foreign ministers to convene a special private meeting soon to discuss the future of East-West relations.

In an article about Western policy in the wake of the new Nato missile deployment, he said it was time the West took a long-term, productive look at ways of easing tension.

Calling on the Russians to return to the negotiating table, Herr Genscher said they had three options: a return to confrontation; partial easing of tension through economic co-operation or efforts to achieve long-term co-operation based on equality.

Herr Genscher, who has urged Mr George Shultz to attend the Stockholm security conference next month, will meet the American Secretary of State next week. He clearly hopes to impress Washington that Europe is waiting for a new move to offset tension caused by the Nato missile deployment.

Paris prepares for huge anti-racist demonstration today

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The largest anti-racist demonstration ever held in France is expected to take place in Paris today at the culmination of a 600-mile march lasting a month and a half by a handful of young Arab immigrants, most of them unemployed.

The March for Racial Equality is the brainchild of Toumi Djaidja, a young Algerian from the notorious immigrant ghetto of Les Minguettes, outside Lyons, who was seriously injured after being shot "accidentally" by a policeman.

It was one of a series of similar incidents during the long hot summer with suspiciously racist overtones. In July there was a public outcry when Toufik Ouanes, aged nine, was shot dead as he played outside his tower block home in the Paris suburb of La Courneuve by an irate white resident who said he could not stand the noise.

Further evidence of a rise in racism in the face of the worsening economic climate came in September when the National Front obtained a startling 17 per cent in the municipal by-elections in Dreux, a town to the south-west of Paris, early a quarter of

whose inhabitants are immigrants without voting rights. A month later, some 30 young Muslims of North African origin set off to walk the length of France under a banner proclaiming: "Live together with our differences." They were joined en route by thousands of supporters.

Even as they marched, more violently racist crimes were taking place. A 26-year-old Algerian on holiday in France was beaten up by four drunken youths and hurled to his death out of a speeding train.

On November 19, another Algerian was shot dead by a Marseilles customs officer who has since been charged with murder. The same week, a 17-year-old Algerian from Les Minguettes was shot dead by a French boy who claimed that his gun accidentally went off while he was cleaning it.

The Socialist, Communist and other left-wing parties are in the forefront of the many organizations, including trade unions and churches, which have called on their members to join the grand finale of the anti-racist march at a Bastille today.

The absence of any support from the Opposition parties is marked.

Late swing may help Caldera

From Colin Harding, Caracas

Seven million Venezuelans go to the polls tomorrow to choose a new President, and a two-chamber Congress, with the results looking far less clear-cut than they did even a few days ago.

In the absence of up-to-date opinion polls - publication of which has been banned - it still seems likely that the opposition candidate, Señor Jaime Lusinchi, of the Democratic Action (AD) Party, will win. He has been the front runner from the start, and enjoys solid support from both employers' organizations and the main trade unions.

But the candidate of the ruling Christian Democrats, Señor Rafael Caldera, has made a strong late showing after a disastrous start to the campaign. His managers have been

Lambsdorff can now be prosecuted

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The Bundestag formally voted yesterday to lift parliamentary immunity on Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, so that the Bonn public prosecutor can serve an accusation of corruption on him. Count Lambsdorff was among the 43 people who were in Parliament early in the morning and voted unanimously to lift immunity.

The prosecutor's office announced that it intends to serve the indictment sometime next week. The prosecutor also rejected Count Lambsdorff's accusations that it had misled him about the nature of the charges he might face. He said in a statement that Count Lambsdorff had been fully informed of the investigations and given photocopies of relevant documents.

Meanwhile the Bundestag has approved a new law on the financing of political parties. This arose directly from the scandal surrounding the numerous payments by the giant Flick group of companies to politicians of all parties in the past.

The main change in the new law is an increase in the amount of tax relief that can be claimed against donations, and a rise in the state contributions to political parties contesting elections.

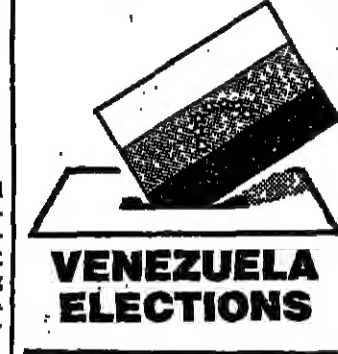
A main accusation in the uproar over Flick payments to leading West German politicians - apart from Count Lambsdorff and others accused of corruption - was that no official record was kept of the donations. Under the new law all payment above DM 20,000 (£2,000) must be notified to the tax authorities.

There was noisy argument in Parliament over a proposed amnesty for those who had broken the tax laws in making donations in the past. The Social Democrats wanted to strike out this amnesty, while the Government wanted to allow courts to decide the issue. A compromise eventually left the issue unsettled, and the new law was passed by a large majority. Only the Greens, who campaigned long over the Flick affair, voted against the law.

The Bundestag also agreed that in future parties not only had to state the source of their funds but also to say what the money was spent on.

Pressure on the Count to resign is mounting, and already speculation has begun over possible successors as Minister of Economic - Comparisons are being drawn with the Parkinson affair in Britain.

However he decides, he will plunge his Free Democratic Party into a crisis.



confidently proclaiming that he has done enough to pip Señor Lusinchi at the post.

Señor Caldera, who was President between 1969 and 1974, has striven to distance himself from the unpopular government of President Luis Herrera Campins, and present himself as an experienced statesman, capable of uniting a divided country, and remaining above the undignified sectarian mud-slinging and dirty tricks that have marked the eight-month campaign.

He has already announced the names of his hypothetical ministerial team, which includes some members of AD.

A late trump card played by Señor Caldera was to take full page advertisements, quoting the national hero, Simon Bolivar, as saying that "in order to do things well, they have to be done twice."

The late surge by Señor Caldera has been helped by the weakness of the AD candidate, who has been portrayed as an easy-going lightweight.

The two left wing candidates - Señor Teodoro Petkoff of Movement Towards Socialism (MVS) and Señor José Vicente Rangel backed by a 12-party coalition - are expected to get between 10 and 15 per cent of the votes between them.

Russia to spell out line on cruise

From Richard Owen, Moscow

"shameless deception". It said Western leaders were trying to create the impression that nothing special had happened and that in due course things would get back into their old routine, when in fact Mr Andropov had said quite explicitly that resumption of the talks depended on the withdrawal of all American missiles in Europe.

"Nothing else was said or could be said either to Chancellor Kohl or anyone else".

Djaidja pointed out that in his original statement Mr Andropov had spoken of Nato "willingness" to return to the status quo ante rather than actual withdrawal of rockets.

Marshal Ogarkov is expected to maintain a hard line indicated in Pravda and to give details of Russia's counter measures.

Monday's press conference was by Marshal Ogarkov's second appearance before foreign journalists in three

months. He had never answered questions until September, when he sought to explain the shooting-down of the Korean airliner over Sakhalin Island. As on that occasion, Marshal Ogarkov will be accompanied on Monday by Mr Georgy Korniyenko, the Deputy Foreign Minister, and Mr Leonid Zamyatin, a senior party official.

Before the airliner crisis, press conferences by high Soviet officials were rare.

With mystery still surrounding the military reports that a decisive role in the formulation of arms control policy.

● PARIS: Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, said here yesterday that he thought the Russians would return to the negotiating table on the reduction of intermediate range missiles soon, perhaps within a matter of months (Diana Geddes writes).



Eadie: Basic principle restated more clearly

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Tory rebels give boost to Thatcher 'no deal, no cash' message to EEC

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The Tory rebels who abstained or voted against the Government on Thursday night in the debate on the EEC budget have done sterling service for Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Their message is precisely the one which she will be delivering forcefully from the time the European summit opens in Athens tomorrow afternoon to the time it ends some 48 hours later.

The message is: No deal - no money. In other words, if the British Government and Parliament cannot be satisfied with the outcome of this crisis summit, there is no chance at all of the Community being given the extra cash it must have if it is not to go bankrupt, stagnate and disintegrate.

That has been the British message ever since the Stuttgart summit in June. It has been the leitmotif of Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Nigel Lawson through the 11 very long days of complicated negotiation which they have slogged their way through on the way to the summit. It is only in the course of the last week, however, that the message appears to have got through. If there were any doubt at all remaining the vote in Westminster should have dispelled it.

The British delegation is travelling to Athens with no illusions that the argument is going to be easy to win. "Experience has taught us that it is better to approach these negotiations, not with optimism or pessimism, but with determination," and official said yesterday.

Mrs Thatcher, who will be attending her fourteenth summit, will be the most experienced in the ways of the EEC of all the leaders in Athens.

Underlying all the argument so far has been a mercenary clash of philosophies between those countries who believed the Community could spend its way out of trouble and those countries who would have had to provide the cash to do this. The would-be spenders were not net contributors to the EEC Budget.

What has happened in the course of the past week is that France has come down very firmly and clearly on the side of good housekeeping by tabling a paper on how to impose budgetary control. That has made the other countries realize at last that the spending has to stop.

France timed its sophisticated paper for controlling spending very carefully. It arrived in time for the summit.

Two VIPs at Downing St



Mr Thorne visited 10 capitals for views.



M Chirac: Surprised by Britain's European spirit.

M Jacques Chirac, the largest-life, chain-smoking Mayor of Paris and leader of the Gaullist RPR Party, declared himself surprised yesterday, at the end of a visit to London, at the extent of Britain's commitment to Europe (Our Foreign Staff writes).

"The English are more European than we think in France and more than in the past," he said at the end of a three-day "private" visit filled with meetings with public figures, including Mrs Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary.

There are still many detailed, difficult and divisive battles to be fought before there can be any final agreement. But if Athens can reach what British officials describe as "suitably specific" conclusions, then it ought to be possible for the next summit in Brussels in March to put the seal of approval to a package of measures which will create the "Europe of the second generation" which all agree is now essential if the Community is to survive.

Those "suitably specific" conclusions would have to be clear enough for Mrs Thatcher to be absolutely certain that there would be meaningful controls on Community spending and that Britain would not have to make a net contribution to the Community larger than a modest 0.1 per cent of the gross domestic product. At present levels that would be about £270m a year.

Only against such cast-iron assurances would Mrs Thatcher be prepared to consider recommending to the British Parliament that there should be an increase in the so-called "VAT ceiling".

At present, member-states are required to pay up to 1 per cent of value added tax receipts from a common basket of goods and services. That money is now not enough to meet the bills, and there will have to be a higher VAT rate if it is ever going to be possible to bring in Spain and Portugal, introduce new policies or even go on paying existing costs - hence the crisis.

If that ceiling is raised, Sir Geoffrey made clear to the Commons during the debate. That is because it would only agree to raising the ceiling if it won an adequate reduction in its contributions.

One cloud on the horizon is the European Parliament, which meets the following week to 'carry out a post mortem on the summit. It has given a warning that it might throw next year's budget out if insufficient progress is made, but the threat seems somewhat empty.

LONDON: Mrs Thatcher made it clear she was sticking hard to her ultra-tough line during an hours talk with Sir Gaston Thorne, the President of the EEC Commission, in Downing Street yesterday (Patricia Clough writes).

There was "no question" of Britain giving its consent to an increase in the Community's own income until members had agreed on a solution to Britain's budget problem and to strict control of spending, a Downing Street spokesman said.



Freedom wave: Mr Heineken (left) and Mr Doderer, his chauffeur, released on Wednesday.

Heineken tells how he lay chained in cell

Amsterdam (Reuter) - Mr Alfred Heineken, the Dutch brewery chief rescued by police from kidnappers on Wednesday, told yesterday how he lay chained for three weeks in a cold, damp cell, trying to stay alive.

Mr Heineken, aged 60, one of the richest men in Europe, gave his first public account of his ordeal in a statement released by his company.

He said he had only one warm meal a day and an occasional bucket of water to wash in. He used a broken plastic fork to comb his hair. He hardly saw his single, masked jailer, who insisted on communicating mainly by sign language and notes.

Mr Heineken's chauffeur, Mr Ab Doderer, who was held in an adjoining cell

in an Amsterdam warehouse, said in a separate statement that he invented exercises to try and keep active, despite his chains.

Nine of the 20 people still held in connection with the kidnapping were released yesterday. Police said they were satisfied the five women and four men had nothing to do with it.

Police are still seeking three men, at least two of whom are believed to be in Spain, and about \$9m (£4.5m) of an \$11m ransom payment.

Police, who watched the kidnappers for some days before the ransom payment and rescue, believe they held at least four of the organizers of the crime.

Mr Heineken said he spent much of his

waking time in his cell pondering or reading by the light of a single, poor bulb.

"There was no daylight apart from through a single small hole in the ceiling," his statement said. "My left hand was chained first, so my freedom of movement was almost nil."

They said they realized they were held close to each other only after four days. Mr Doderer said he realized he was being rescued when he heard a voice say: "Damn, there is no match," and he guessed that police were trying to break in.

Both men said they were in good health, and Mr Heineken added that he had kept his sense of humour during captivity "although there wasn't much chance to exercise it".

Botha defies the West on reforms

By Leslie Plummer

Mr R. F. P. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, declared in London yesterday that his Government would not make changes based on external demands amounting to a recipe for "capitulation" by the South African administration.

He was "sick" of complaints from abroad and tired of "hypocritical and false moral attitudes" held by some Governments in Europe and elsewhere towards South Africa.

But Mr Botha's visit to London as part of a tour of Western capitals has apparently taken some of the heat out of South Africa's relations with the British Government. Nevertheless, neither side has changed its position as a result of his hour-long talk yesterday with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary. The two also met informally last night at the South African Embassy.

Both ministers had been expecting a stormy session yesterday.

Pretoria forestalls Seychelles plot

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Another attempt to form a mercenary force to carry out a coup d'état in the Seychelles is being investigated by police in South Africa.

Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, said in a statement in Pretoria yesterday that five people have been detained and are being interrogated by the security police. They included British and Zimbabwe citizens.

Mr Le Grange said the South African Government took a serious view of the alleged plan and was "not prepared to allow any such developments to take place within this country."

According to the police information the plan was instigated by people living in Britain representing a Seychelles exile organization, the Mouvement Pour la Résistance.

In November, 1981, a group of mercenaries recruited in South Africa and led by Colonel Michael "Mad Mike" Hoare staged an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Seychelles

Government of President Albert René and install the exiled Mr James Mancham back in power.

Col Hoare, aged 65, is now serving a 12-year jail sentence in a South African prison for his role in seizing an Air India airliner in which 24 mercenaries, who called themselves the "Ancient Order of Frothblowers," escaped back to South Africa.

Most of the others are now out of jail after receiving sentences which were mostly suspended. At their trial it was claimed that their weapons were supplied by the South African Defence Force and that the coup attempt had the approval of people in high authority.

The trial was held after an international outcry over South Africa's apparent indifference to the coup attempt which was summed up by a remark made by Mr Le Grange: "All they did was break a few windows."

Rapists plea against castration

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Three men convicted in South Carolina of raping and torturing a woman are appealing against the extraordinary and controversial sentence passed on them. The judge said they could choose between 30 years in jail or surgical castration.

The sentence has been strongly praised and fiercely criticized. Castration is favoured by advocates of tougher official attitudes to criminals, but it is condemned by others as barbaric and unconstitutional.

The judge's critics say: "If, as a society, we say it is all right to castrate rapists, we might also agree that we should offer thieves the choice between jail and having a hand cut off."

The rape case shocked the small town of Anderson. Judge Victor Pyle said it was the "most horrible" he had ever heard. The three men - aged 27, 21 and 19 - pleaded guilty to raping a 23-year-old woman over a period of six hours in a motel. She was also burnt with a cigarette lighter and lost four pints of blood.

Judge Pyle has said he will not change the sentence. He claims it is fair because the three are not being forced to submit to castration - they have a choice.

The men have appealed against the sentence and their lawyers have advised them not to make a choice in the meantime. If castrated, they would go on probation for five years.

Many people are disturbed by the idea that violent men could go free after being castrated or that mutilation could be considered an alternative to a jail sentence.

The director of a rape advice centre in South Carolina said rape is a crime of violence rather than of sex. She said castration of rapists had an emotional appeal, but there was a danger that castrated men might be even more violent after the operation.

Other opponents of the sentence suggest castration might not necessarily prevent men having sex and raping again.

Proconsul ape did not reign alone

Nairobi - Remains of a 17 million-year-old ape-like creature, discovered recently in northern Kenya, are expected to lead to a revision of existing theories about the earliest ancestors of man and apes (Charles Harrison writes).

Mr Richard Leakey, director of the National Museums of Kenya, said here yesterday that the latest finds, made in a waterless area close to the Ethiopian border a few weeks ago, were "clearly distinct" from the proconsul ape, which is known to have existed at the same period and hitherto was to be the earliest ancestor of all primates and man.

Now it seems that the proconsul was not alone - but lived alongside a different creature, twice the size of proconsul, and with a quite different jaw and facial characteristics.

First news of the finds was given in Washington by an American professor, Alan Walker, who took part in the expedition. The announcement angered Mr Leakey.

Basques bomb US targets

San Sebastian (Reuter) - Basque separatist guerrillas, in the worst campaign against US interests in the region for many years, bombed eight American targets causing extensive damage but no injuries.

The bombs exploded on Thursday night in Coca Cola plants here and in Pamplona, at the offices of the NCR computer company in San Sebastian and in Vitoria and at a Pepsi-Cola plant in Vitoria.

Flynt held for trying to flee

Anchorage (Reuter) - Mr Larry Flynt, the sex magazine publisher, saying he wanted to go to Moscow to give President Andropov a cancer cure, flew to Alaska yesterday - and was promptly arrested and ordered back to Los Angeles.

He was detained for breaking an order not to leave the jurisdiction of a Los Angeles court, which is fining him \$12,500 a day for refusing to reveal the source of a tape recording involving the car maker John De Lorean.

Dog deadline

Peking (AP) - Dog owners in Peking have been given three more weeks to get rid of their pets voluntarily before the authorities enforce a ban on them. Despite official claims that extermination teams have killed 200,000 dogs in the past six weeks, there have been no reported sightings of the extermination squads.

Briton freed

Johannesburg (Reuter) - Mr David Rabkin, a British journalist who was jailed in 1976 for 10 years for offences under South Africa's terrorism and internal security laws, has been freed, three years before his sentence expired.

Dingo case

Canberra (Reuter) - The Australian High Court reserved judgment on the final appeal of Lindy Chamberlain against a life sentence for murdering her baby daughter in the so-called Dingo murder case. Chamberlain, aged 35, jailed in April, had maintained that a dingo snatched her baby.

Nazi centre

Bonn (Reuter) - Parliament approved a motion by the opposition Social Democrats to establish a public documentation and information centre chronicling the Nazi persecution of Jews and other people.

Former spy chief held in bribes case

From John Earle, Rome

General Giuseppe Santovito, former head of Italian military intelligence and a member of the banned P2 Masonic lodge, was arrested here early yesterday on orders of a magistrate investigating a Mafia-type bribery case.

The central figure in the case is Signor Alvaro Giardili, a businessman arrested a month ago and accused of being involved in offering bribes for two contracts, one to rebuild houses after 1980, the other to conduct an aerial photographic survey of Sicily.

The authorities have given no details of the charge against General Santovito or of his alleged involvement in the Giardili investigation.

After his arrest, the general's wife, Giulietta, said: "A plot is under way against my husband and his arrest is the proof."

Arrests and curfew in Bangladesh

Ershad in fear of army coup

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

Lieutenant-General Ershad has stamped hard on the dissenting political parties in Bangladesh following the bloody demonstrations in Dhaka and Chittagong. The leadership of the main parties is either arrested or on the run. Heavily armed soldiers man key intersections in the capital. A curfew was in force last night for seven hours from 10pm.

The permission for the resumption of political activity which General Ershad gave only yesterday to the Queen's aircraft was approaching Zia international airport at the beginning of his state visit here a fortnight ago has been hurriedly scrapped.

But yesterday, the presence of troops patrolling the streets was considerably diminished from the previous two days. On Wednesday and Thursday soldiers were evident everywhere in the city.

On Friday, the Muslim Sunday, the streets were much less crowded and the soldiers

more discreet. The day also saw the arrival of officials from countries attending the Islamic foreign ministers conference due to begin here next week.

It is the first big international conference that Bangladesh has hosted, and the presence of so many distinguished foreigners may be the reason for both the heavy clampdown and now the apparent discretion of the forces.

It is felt likely by Bangladesh observers that the politicians will lie low now until the foreign ministers' conference is over but that political agitation will be resumed with a vengeance after that.

Among leaders of the political movement who have been arrested are the two women leaders of the principal opposition parties, Shaikh Hasina Wajed, daughter of Bangladesh's first Prime Minister, and Begum Khalida Zia, the widow of the assassinated President Zia ur-Rahman.

Mr Tipu Biswas, a Maoist and former Naxalite, who now

supports Begun Zia, has also been arrested together with Mrs Iry Rahman, wife of the former secretary-general of the Awami League - Shaikh Hasina's party - and Mrs Sajeda Chaudhury, the present acting secretary-general of the League.

Official figures show that over 600 people have been arrested altogether. Most of them were picked up in Dhaka and Chittagong.

General Ershad, who seized power 20 months ago and dismissed the elected President, has promised to return the country to democratic rule. He has announced that a presidential election will be held next May and parliamentary elections in November.

It appears that one possible fear of General Ershad's is that the unity of the armed forces could be undermined, and that he could be replaced, not necessarily by a democratic government, but by another general.

Druze in mourning for shaikh

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Hundreds of Druze gathered in West Beirut yesterday to mourn their murdered chief jurist, Shaikh Halim Taki-dine, and to call on the Government to find his murderer. Druze women walked silently past Shaikh Taki-dine's body, in a simple wooden coffin, at a Druze centre.

In Tripoli, a spokesman for Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, said Syria had turned down a request to guarantee the safety of an International Red Cross ship due into the port to transport wounded Arafat loyalists for treatment elsewhere. The accusation could not be confirmed independently.

NEW YORK: The mandate of the UN peacekeeping forces on the Golan Heights has been extended for six months by the Security Council (Zoriana Pysirivsky writes).

Dr Runcie in China as a friend

From Our Correspondent, Peking

Peking (Reuter) - The Archbishop of Canterbury arrived in Peking yesterday on the first official visit to China by the spiritual head of the Anglican church.

Dr Runcie said: "We shall bring messages of friendship not only from Anglicans but from other Christians because we represent them all."

A spokesman said the church had a role in creating trust and understanding over the future of Hongkong after the lease on most of the British colony expires in 1997.

Dr Runcie made an unofficial visit to China in January, 1982, when he went to a Protestant seminary in Nanjing but did not come to Peking.

Asked whether he would raise the issue of four Chinese Catholic priests who have been imprisoned for refusing to renounce ties with the Vatican, the Archbishop said: "We will see what we shall raise when we see what the programme is."

Junta did not expect a war

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The latest published excerpts from the top-secret Rattenbach report on Argentina's defeat in the Falklands war reveal that the junta which ordered the occupation of the islands did not seriously consider the possibility that Britain would react with military force.

The weekly magazine *Siete Dias* published on Wednesday the second instalment of excerpts from the military's definitive investigation of the war, which strongly condemns the decision to seize the islands and states that confused strategic planning led the country into a war for which it was not prepared.

A British reaction, including the massive use of military force, was considered "little short of impossible" by the military and civilian officials who planned the Argentine occupation, the report says.

In a nine-month study of the war, the special military commission which drafted the report found that the military junta began planning an invasion of the Falklands as early as January 12, 1982, several months before Argentine workmen on South Georgia triggered a diplomatic incident which led to the war.

In its last scheduled meeting before turning over power to the

elective civilian government, the junta ordered both military and civilian courts to look into possible violations of secrecy laws in the publication of the report.

Air Commodore Carlos Rey, one of the authors of the report, said the leak "is extremely serious and a breach of a national secret", and that it was probably "due to motives of profits".

Señor Raul Borras, designated to be Defence Minister under President-elect Raul Alfonsín, said that the Rattenbach report would be used as the first step in the future

Government's own investigation of who was responsible for the Falklands war.

As President, Señor Alfonsín will have the final word on the fate of those military officers court-martialled by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. That court-martial has begun summary proceedings but will probably take several months to pass a verdict on those indicted by the Rattenbach report.

There are only 10 copies of the 300-page report in existence, and *Siete Dias* said it had access to the copy sent to the current junta.

Time to talk, says Steel

By Our Political Editor

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said yesterday that failure to pursue negotiations with Argentina over the Falkland Islands would be to abandon a crucial opportunity presented by Argentina's return to democracy.

Speaking to members of Edinburgh University Air Squadron, he said that a policy of "Fortress Falklands", made necessary by war, was no long-

term answer and was profoundly damaging to Britain's national defence commitments. The economic burden of defending the islands, at about £750m a year, was more than the total air defence cost of Britain.

There had been a "clear renunciation of hostilities and the future use of force" by Argentina. Continuation of hostilities could only lead to greater defence spending.



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AGENDA FOR ATHENS

The sometimes superficially absurd manoeuvres of members of the House of Commons who are trying to make a point can often illuminate political reality in a way that nothing else does. So it was this week when nearly a third of the Conservative Party twisted itself into knots in an attempt to give the Prime Minister a little helpful guidance in advance of her journey tomorrow to the European Economic Community's summit at Athens.

The Community is running out of money enough to cover its expenditure, and requires an increase in the contributions it receives from member states which provide it with what are called its "own resources". Britain, which has started from a stance of extreme scepticism about whether such an increase in "own resources" was needed at all, modified its position at the Stuttgart summit in June. Mrs Thatcher is now prepared to "consider" an increase provided, but only provided, that the Community Budget arrangements, under which Britain's contribution is unfairly high, are reformed, and the Community's profligate spending on agriculture is brought under control.

There will be some hard bargaining in Athens and as a prelude to it, 121 Tory backbenchers, many of them newcomers to Parliament, were persuaded by that independent-minded backbencher Sir Hugh Fraser, and by other critics of the Common Market who are more wholly committed against it than he is, that it would strengthen Mrs Thatcher's hand if they signed a motion declaring that "own resources" should not be increased. Far from feeling helped, however, the Government was of the opinion that to go to Athens inhibited by such a motion was tantamount to being prevented from negotiating at all.

So the Whips went to work, as Whips do, and 66 of the errant backbenchers obediently withdrew their names from the original motion and signed another, which had the Government's approval. The gist of this was that there should be no increase in "own resources" except on the conditions the Government is making. The irony did not, however, end there since the majority of those who did not withdraw their names from the original motion still voted against the Labour amendment which was couched in the same terms. Only a small band of seven critical Tories stayed with their motion and voted against the Government.

Their small number is not, however, the measure of the significance of these bizarre events. Mrs Thatcher goes to Athens without formal strings but with a clear understanding

that she could not get the assent of her party for an agreement at any price. What is more, she will be helped by the fact that the governments with which she is negotiating will have taken that point, too.

There has been a coming together of British political attitudes to the Community. Since the election, the leaders of the Labour Party have virtually abandoned their commitment to withdrawal from the Community, and instead insist on reforming it. At the same time, the great majority (far wider than the 121) of Conservatives no longer feel that the defence of their Europeanism requires pliancy towards flaws in the Community. The "non-European Party" has come to accept Europe, albeit demanding reforms. The "European Party" now demands reforms very firmly without fearing that this might throw into question the British commitment to Europe. Only the Liberals manage to sound as though, for them, the Community right or wrong is a self-sufficient slogan.

The instructive debate in the House of Commons on Thursday, however, achieved something more than the expression of this new tendency toward political unity on Europe. It also served usefully to bring into the open the question whether (given the reforms on the budget and agriculture) the increase in EEC "own resources" is a genuine necessity. It is one thing to say that we will consider it on the given conditions as though the result of that consideration were an entirely open question; it is another to imply that such consideration (the conditions duly satisfied) will obviously lead to the conclusion that an increase will be necessary. Where, between these two formulations, does the reality lie?

That there has been a certain shift in the British position since Stuttgart is clear. From being clearly unconvinced that there was a case for increased "own resources" the British Government is prepared to consider it (on the given conditions) though Mrs Thatcher's formal position is that she remains to be convinced. The justification for this change of emphasis is threefold.

First, the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal, which is desirable in order to strengthen the foundations of democracy in Europe, will cost extra money. Both countries are well below the general Community level of prosperity; both will be net beneficiaries from the Community's total outgoings.

Secondly, if Britain secures the "safety-net" proposals which would fix each member's net contributions to its relative

prosperity in the Community, we should in effect be paying less because we should get money back next year. Such repayment almost certainly cannot be without raising the element of "own resources" which is calculated as a national (and harmonized) 1 per cent of the VAT tax base. Third, it is likely that new money will be needed to finance special programmes, for instance the programme for the research and development of information technology.

None of this implies that the increase in "own resources" need be substantial. Justifiable new expenditure (after allowing for saving on agriculture) could imply raising the VAT-element ceiling from 1 per cent to 1.2 or 1.4 per cent. What precisely might be necessary cannot be calculated until the arithmetic of saving from the other reforms has been done. But two further points can be made against those who would resist any increase. Given the conditions Mrs Thatcher is insisting on, a higher "ceiling" would not push Britain itself (contributing less) above the 1 per cent limit for some time, and it would, of course, be many years before the new "ceiling" was reached.

Whether a final settlement will be reached at Athens may be doubted, but certainly a decisive breakthrough by the heads of government there is not out of the question. A new unity of attitudes appears to be developing and the change in the French approach is particularly heartening. Their position that they can only agree to financial guidelines for agricultural expenditure if similar cash-limits are applied to industrial and social spending is an approach which the British Government plainly does not find unsympathetic.

In other words, though the bargaining will be hard, there are signs of convergence. Mrs Thatcher has every reason to believe that if she stands firm on the conditions she has laid down, a solution acceptable to Britain can be obtained, for without Britain's agreement no solution is possible; and every member state wants a solution. Perhaps more than most leaders of Community nations, the Prime Minister has always seen the case for the EEC not principally in terms of economic advantage but politically. It provides a strong economic base for the west of Europe as a whole, which is its best defence against extremism. It provides a forum of shared interests in which the heads of the member governments have regular contact with each other to try to reach common positions on questions of wider international importance. When so much hangs on success, failure seems hardly thinkable.

there was a greater likelihood of their constituting a danger to members of the public if released. That is not Mr Brittan's reason for changing the rules. His reason has to do with deterrence and the exaction of condign punishment.

Parole came in when there was more confidence than there is today in the reformatory effect of penal regimes. It came in under the heading "treatment of offenders" with its medical overtones suggestive of a moral or behavioural disorder capable of responding to an appropriate course of professional treatment. Absence of result and the gross impediments that go with the overcrowded state of the prisons have undermined that faith.

While the faith was strong it was easier to regard parole under supervision as a continuation of custodial treatment by other means, a further stage in the rehabilitation of the prisoner to take his place in society as a free man once again (which is what parole still is in theory); and there was correspondingly less need to be disturbed at the gap between length of sentence handed out by the judge and term served behind bars.

With the fading of the treatment concept, and the more popular concepts of deterrence and retribution forcing their way back into official thinking, it is hardly surprising, though hardly satisfactory, that parole has come to be seen as a one-way system for revising the length of sentences downwards, which may be all right for some categories of offenders but is not in the case of others.

embarrassing for other members of this organization should a future elected government opt out at a future date.

Yours faithfully,

AHMAD BASHIR,
42 Manor Avenue,
Hounslow,
Middlesex.
November 24.

Pakistan invitation

From Mr Ahmad Bashir
Sir, Your advice (November 22) to the Commonwealth leaders assembled at Delhi to extend an invitation to the military government of Pakistan to rejoin the Commonwealth (which the elected government had previously quitted) is indeed deplorable.

It would have been more commendable had you urged them to use their influence to secure the release of political prisoners (such as Benazir Bhutto) from Pakistani jails, and to seek to mitigate the inhuman punishments meted out to the people.

If the generals are allowed to become associated with the Commonwealth then it would be

Concern at airline safety record

From the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union

Sir, For some time now our membership, in the form of cabin crews and indeed all airport workers, have viewed with some concern the fact that there had been a clear relaxation in safety measures as compared with a few years ago because apparently fierce competition is encouraging some airlines to cut corners on safety in an effort to reduce costs.

We have no doubt in our minds that the reason for the UK having such a good record of safety in the aviation industry is due to the fact that the state airline has always maintained very stringent precautions, thus carrying every other British concern along with it.

Surely, if there is going to be action taken within the next year or so to privatize the aviation industry we are going to see shareholders demanding cost-cutting exercises in all fields with the result that the Civil Aviation Authority may not even be able to control standards at their present level, which even now appear to be deteriorating.

We have seen drastic reductions in staff and we can only repeat our experience, when new management take over existing firms, that cost-cutting exercises, in the form of asset stripping, staff reductions and all other money-saving projects, are introduced.

This issue needs to be fully considered in the form of a public inquiry so that we can properly ascertain whether the public who are served by the industry, those who work in it and, indeed, those who live in the UK, are being properly protected and whether there is, in effect, a need for such an exercise to be carried out purely for political dogma at the expense of what we have written above.

If the Government is adamant that what it is doing is in the public interest, surely it would not object to a public inquiry before it proceeds on such a disastrous course.

Our union would be happy to provide evidence at any hearing to show why this exercise should not be followed through.

Yours faithfully,
MOSS EVANS, General Secretary,
Transport and General Workers' Union,
Smith Square,
Westminster, SW1.
November 24.

Oxford admissions

From Mr O. P. Taplin
Sir, In the correspondence about the new admissions system here in Oxford the impression might have been given by some letters that there could still be changes in it.

As Chairman of the Management Committee of the Oxford Colleges Admissions Office I should make it clear that this is not so. Colleges collectively took their final decision approving the new scheme on November 3. At the same meeting they also took the decision that these proposals will start in 1985 (for those seeking entry to be admitted to Oxford in October 1986).

The press and school organizations were given an outline of the new scheme immediately the final decision was taken; and a document setting out the details of the procedures and their implications will be circulated to schools in March.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER TAPLIN, Chairman,
Management Committee,
Oxford Colleges Admissions Office,
University Office,
Wellington Square, Oxford.

Disruption of concert

From Miss Deborah Bazalgette

Sir, I was present at the concert given yesterday evening by the USSR Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. During the short break between the first and second movements of Prokofiev's Classical, Symphony groups of demonstrators, strategically placed around the auditorium, shouted very loudly in defence of Soviet Jewry and had to be removed so that the concert could continue.

I do not support the Soviet regime. I do, however, carry in my mind a clear and enduring memory of the warm and generous welcome extended to me and my fellow members of the London Symphony Chorus when we spent a week in Moscow earlier this year to give three concerts with this orchestra. The demonstrators would do well to consider other more timely and more effective ways (of which there are undoubtedly several) to further their indisputably just cause.

Yours faithfully,
DEBORAH BAZALGETTE,
117 Bow Lane, Finchley, N12.
December 1.

Fear of police powers

From the Secretary of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales

Sir, The continuing representations that police powers of detention are to be increased by the proposals in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill need to be answered. In particular your correspondent, Mr. Blok (November 16), who describes the proposed Bill as horrendous and says that there will be a dramatic increase in the number of persons held for longer than a day and also in the numbers of those charged on the basis of admissions alone, is just not recognising the proposals and the safeguards in the interest of the citizen.

It is wrong to describe these changes as increased powers for at present on a serious charge it is often necessary to detain a person, when the expression "helping police with their enquiries" is used. This can be stretched to many days, not the

Politics and examination results

From Mr Giles Radice, MP for Durham North (Labour)

Sir, Your leading article, "No closed book at the DES" (December 1), was a thoroughly irresponsible and ill-founded attack on the competence and integrity of officials at the Department of Education and Science.

The scandal is not the department's handling of the Cox and Marks report, *Standards in English Schools* (which claims secondary moderns and grammar schools together have better examination results than comprehensive schools) but the blatant political pressure applied in an attempt to override the DES's careful assessment of the report.

In your anxiety to defend Cox and Marks you misrepresent Sir Keith Joseph's recent statement on the NCES (National Council for Educational Standards) report. You find space to quote Sir Keith's welcome for their "pioneering work" but fail to mention the substantial criticisms of the NCES's methodology contained in three of the statement's five paragraphs.

Nor do you mention the letter to the NCES authors from the DES's statistician, Mr Wakefield, published with the Secretary of State's statement.

In this letter Mr Wakefield does not retract the department's criticisms of both the methodology and conclusions of the report. In particular, the department, like all other objective commentators, concludes that the NCES study has failed to take adequate account of the effects of social class. This helps explain why the Cox and Marks study reaches conclusions so much at variance with other studies, such as those by the National Children's Bureau and Edinburgh University.

It is sad to see *The Times* swallowing the Cox and Marks interpretation of events "hook, line,

and sinker". A newspaper genuinely concerned with standards should do its homework before it pronounces on such important issues.

Yours, etc.
GILES RADICE (Chief Opposition spokesman on education),
House of Commons,
December 1.

From Mrs Freda M. Andrews

Sir, Your leader writer's concern at the quality of secondary school education betrays a fundamental error of reasoning.

The fact that too many young people leave school without formal qualifications adds nothing to the debate on comprehensive versus grammar/secondary modern, or whatever other system you care to mention.

It tells us a lot, however, about the inappropriateness of the school curriculum in all types of school and the inadequacies of the present examination system for measuring the achievement and abilities of the majority of the 16-year-old population.

Let us all stop bickering about comprehensive versus the rest, which can only be measured "objectively", as you say, by the inappropriate yardstick of O levels. Let us start thinking instead about what our young people really need from the secondary curriculum. If some people then wish to argue that a more relevant curriculum can only be followed effectively in a grammar or secondary modern school, they would have to convince us that it was an experiment worth trying.

Let us forget for once how many O levels a person has got and ask instead what that person can really do!

Yours faithfully,
FREDA M. ANDREWS,
43 Lawrence Road,
Ealing, W5.
December 1.

Calke Abbey

From Mr James Lees-Milne

Sir, Mr Nicholas Baker (November 25) is assuming that the National Trust is greedily demanding yet another grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to buy and endow a second-rate house and estate, namely Calke Abbey. As I look upon it, this is not the case at all.

The trust (in default of any other person or institution forthcoming) is merely asking the Treasury to take the Calke Abbey estate in lieu of death duties, in other words, to forgo what amounts to a windfall. Had the late owner given or devised Calke to the trust there would have been no question of the Treasury benefiting from the despoliation of this property in terms of cash.

But no, the Treasury is demanding its pound of flesh. It is prepared cynically to claim for the Exchequer what amounts to a drop towards its ocean of billions of pounds at the expense of an exceedingly beautiful country house, its original contents,

park of medieval origin and income-producing farmlands in a part of the Midlands not rich in fine scenery.

In other words, the Treasury has got its values wrong. They are short-term instead of long-term, departmental rather than national, philistine and not ethical.

Calke is admittedly not as important in architectural terms as, say, Belton or Kedleston. Nonetheless, I dare to guess that this most endearingly English of "squires' houses" would prove to be just as popular historically and aesthetically as the great masterpieces.

In our National Gallery you will find larger crowds admiring a Stubbs landscape than a Rubens altarpiece. Who has the right to declare that their taste is at fault? The Treasury apparently. And so the Treasury is going to deprive the public of one more slice of England's heritage.

Oh well, there are terrorists and terrorists.

Yours,
JAMES LEES-MILNE,
19 Lansdown Crescent,
Bath, Avon.

Alliance unity

From Mr Winston Roddick

Sir, I am sorry that Mr Richard Holme (November 18) feels that in England the Social Democrats and the Liberals are growing apart. That is not our experience here in Wales.

On November 10 the Welsh Liberal Party agreed to allow the SDP to share its offices in Cardiff and we have agreed that we shall share administrative facilities. On November 19 we established the Alliance Committee for Wales and the SDP have invited me to become its first chairman.

The terms of reference of this committee are to make recommen-

dations to our respective parties on policies, strategy, organization, press and promotion of the Alliance in Wales. We have already agreed on the distribution of seats for the European elections and we are confident that within a few weeks we shall agree on the distribution of seats for the next general election.

It is our hope that both parties in England will learn from our example.

Yours faithfully,
WINSTON RODDICK, Chairman,
Welsh Liberal Party,
4 Balmoral Close,
Lisvane, Cardiff,
South Glamorgan.
November 22.

Way of the Cross

From the Reverend Frank R. Clabburn

Sir, Your intelligent and provocative leader (November 21, The way of the Cross) has left me in a turmoil the writer may not have predicted; I agree so much that I am in danger of joining him (or her) in our own particular schism. Where one or two are gathered together, there is a club.

As a Unitarian for many years, I am used to recognizing the centrality of individual faith, searching for one's own values. The purpose, as I understand it, of my sort of church, gathering is not, as your writer accuses "all denominations", to insist on its own doctrinal standpoint, but to offer an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect wherein all individuals do, as the writer earlier insists, search themselves in order "to reach the ultimate ethical decisions".

The writer is, in my view, brilliant in the argument used for individual faith but, because the seed of the argument was an enthronement of an Anglican archbishop, only makes passing reference to the fact that Christianity, in its multitudinous

doctrinal, denominational forms, is nowadays a minority faith in what is only an environment of faith in which to seek out one's own "species".

In this respect Dr Habgood's confident (and very natural) reaffirmation of the Christian Church seems somewhat in contradiction of the recently reviewed British Council of Churches report, "Can we pray together?", in which representatives of 27 denominations (Christian) are asked to spur British Christians into sharing worship with people of other faiths.

The underlying realization of this report is that not only is religion a search for personal truths, but that many forms, such as Buddhism, offered from long before the birth of Jesus techniques and attitudes, not dogmas and unquestionable, corporate statements of so-called "fact".

The schisms within Christendom are perhaps, as your writer says, expressions of a self-righteous certainty which gets its "comeuppance" in the growing indifference of a public sick and tired of hypocrisy.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK R. CLABBURN,
7 South Hill,
Godalming, Surrey.

Keeping telecom wires uncrossed

From Mr John Bray

Sir, There is an aspect of the current debate on the privatisation of British Telecom that has hardly been mentioned but which could be of vital importance to present and future users. It is the likelihood that unrestricted privatisation would seriously impair the integrity of the national telecommunication network - that is, the quality, and reliability of the service provided.

A multiplicity of overlapping networks provided by a variety of entrepreneurs could well lead to a fragmented and uneconomic network, with divided and therefore less accountable responsibility for quality of service and higher costs to the user.

Modern telecommunications has moved far beyond the telephone: it is the universal provider of a wide range of services. It has resulted, on the world scale, in the most complex, extensive and influential artifact yet created by mankind.

Unrestricted privatisation could lead to a variety of non-optimum and possibly conflicting technical and operational standards within the United Kingdom and a deterioration in the quality of service. Failure to achieve clearly recognized and agreed standards within the national network could also lead to a weakening of the voice of the UK in determining international standards and consequently in our ability to secure overseas markets for telecommunications equipment.

Furthermore, it makes neither engineering nor economic sense to set up overlapping networks in the same geographical area, any more than it would be to establish several independent railway systems between, say, London and Birmingham. Nor does the customer wish to have several different cables entering his premises, or separate bills to pay for various telecommunication services.

It is to be hoped that the Telecommunications Bill now under discussion will fully recognize the need for a national telecommunications authority, i.e., British Telecom, with clearly defined and effective responsibility for the integrity of the national telecommunication network, including its technical and operational standards and quality of service.

Yours sincerely,
W. J. BRAY,
(Former Director of Research, Post Office),
The Pump House,
Bredford,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.
November 23.

What Keynes meant

From Professor Z. A. Silberton

Sir, Keynes may have been witty (letter, November 23), but he was not primarily concerned with being witty when he wrote, "In the long run we are all dead." Nor - pace Sir William Rees-Mogg - was he saying that we can be as irresponsible as we like in the short run, since in the long run everything will be forgotten. Just the reverse, in fact.

Keynes used the phrase in *A Treatise on Monetary Reform* (p 63, Royal Economic Society edition, Macmillan) when discussing the quantity theory of money.

The theory might predict well in the long run, he said, but - "this long run is a misleading guide to current affairs. In the long run we are all dead. Economists set themselves too easy, too useless a task if in tempestuous seasons they can only tell us that when the storm is long past the ocean is flat again."

What he was saying was that short-term problems cannot be ignored, even though they may sort themselves out in the long run. It was a serious and important observation, applicable to a wide range of economic and social problems. It was also compassionate, as one would expect of that great man.

Yours sincerely,
Z. A. SILBERTON,
Secretary-General,
The Royal Economic Society,
Imperial College of Science and Technology, SW7.
November 24.

Security check

From Commander G. Cobb, RN (read)

Sir, The recent theft of 6,800 bars of gold from a security warehouse reminds me of an occasion in 1940 when, in charge of a file of Royal Marines, I had to meet a bullion train, in the middle of the morning rush hour, at St Enoch station in Glasgow to receive 720 cases of gold bullion for transport across the Atlantic, destined for Fort Knox.

From the rear of several tatty old goods wagons stepped an immaculately dressed official from the Bank of England. "For heaven's sake get these soldiers away," he said petulantly.

"We ain't soldiers", replied the Sergeant indignantly, "we're Royal Marines."

One or two passers-by were amused by this exchange, wondering what was afoot. Meanwhile I asked the "Anthony Eden" black-headed official if he required a receipt for so precious a cargo.

"Write on the back of that envelope", he replied, "720 cases received, that will do for Montague Norman." The envelope contained the Top Secret signal with regard to the transaction.

Times have changed, alas.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD COBB,
Stoke Cottage,
Meonstoke,
Southampton,
Hampshire.
November 28.

FAMILY MONEY

Tax avoidance schemes

BES funds doors closing fast

Only six of the 21 Business Expansion Scheme funds launched since June of this year are still open to investors.

And with the pressing requirement to invest the money before the end of the current tax year in order to qualify for tax relief, this is probably the investor's last chance to take advantage of one of the best tax avoidance schemes available.

Individuals subscribing between £2,000 and £40,000 to any of the funds will be investors in a surprise assortment of unquoted companies. The stake money is allowable against your highest marginal tax rates, including the investment income surcharge.

This means, at best, for a 75 per cent taxpayer, tax relief can give an effective discount of 75 per cent. This generous incentive to promote smaller businesses is the Government's acknowledgement that venture capital is risk capital.

Of £20m invested to date in 114 companies by the 11 earlier Start-up Scheme approved funds, £650,000 has been lost in four companies which failed.

Unfortunately, besides the venture risk, there is another

risk inherent in approved funds - this concerns the timing of tax relief. Currently, tax relief is only given for the tax year in which the new shares are issued by the investor companies to the fund manager acting as nominee.

Consequently, investors with prospectively lower marginal tax rates next year should only invest in funds which will be fully invested by the end of the current tax year.

However, any fund may have difficulty in finding suitable companies, as have at least two of the 1981/82 funds which are still not fully invested. Approved funds will continue to give uncertain tax relief unless the Government accepts the merit of amending the legislation to allow tax relief to relate back to the year of subscription to the fund.

Funds may now invest in established unquoted companies as well as in start-up situations. Although start-ups are inherently more risky than investments in established companies, the more successful smaller companies could possibly achieve a tenfold or greater increase in share value after five

years of sustained growth.

Tax relief would effectively increase the rate of this return to twentyfold or more for the 50 per cent taxpayer and to fortyfold or more for the 75 per cent taxpayer.

Apart from tax relief, the most important concern of investors will be the ease of realization of the shares after five years.

This will be easier in the case of well established companies ready for the USM or even full market listing. Fund management groups active in over-the-counter (OTC) markets will also be able to trade shares in successful companies which may not be ready for the USM.

OTC markets should be significantly more highly developed (and controlled) in five years' time. Currently, they are generally run on a matched bargaining basis with no guarantee of sale. However, Hill Wollgar and Ravensdale are prepared to act as principals, i.e. to give a jobbing service.

Other methods of realization include purchase of the shares by the company's management (more feasible with small placings); sales to institutional

buyers; sale of the company; forming an investment holding company; and purchase of the shares by the company itself.

But otherwise, as Sabreance's David Shaw (ex-County Bank) points out: "One of the most important points an individual should consider is what happens at the end of the five-year period if the shares are not marketable".

Sabreance undertakes to manage investments on behalf of investors for up to 10 years to give additional time for company shares to become marketable.

If you wish to invest at a generous tax relief discount in new or expanding established companies and you need the selection, investment spread and management benefits that funds provide, then do not wait to the end of the tax year.

Now is the latest time to invest if tax relief for the current financial year is important to you. With some offshore roll-up fund money already looking for a new home, do not count on every fund remaining open to their closing dates.

John Harrison

Approved business expansion funds open to subscribers in November and December 1983

Fund	Minster Trust	Sabreance	County Bank	Hill Wollgar	Ravensdale	Britannia
Date launched	6.10.1983	17.10.1983	2.11.1983	9.11.1983	10.11.1983	15.11.1983
Closing date (Earlier on full subscription)	9.12.1983	9.12.1983	9.12.1983	16.12.1983	30.12.1983	5.12.1983
Fund: Maximum Minimum	£3m £1.5m	£1.5m £0.4m	£2.5m £1m	£2m £0.5m	£1.5m £0.5m	£2.5m
Minimum subscription (Add initial fee)	£2,000	£2,000	£5,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000
Fees to subscribing investors						
Initial fee	4% + Vat	6% + Vat	5% + Vat	7% + Vat	7% + Vat	5% + Vat
Annual fee	Nil	Up to 1% + Vat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Charges to companies Placing fee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Fees for other services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Share option	Up to 20% of fund holding	Up to 15% of ex-fund equity	No option (other than with bank loans)	Up to 10% or equity	Up to 15% of equity	None
Investment range						
Minimum	£100,000 preferred	£30,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£100,000
Maximum (or 20% of fund)	£300,000	£250,000	£450,000	£400,000	£300,000	£500,000
Investment policy		c. 20% s-u but 80% of fund may be in companies under 5 years	Mainly established companies	No pure s-u	Balance eg 25/75	New and emerging companies
Start-up or expansion	Max 20% s-u					
Projected date for full investment (no guarantee)	April 5, 1984	April 5, 1984	April 5, 1985	April 5, 1985	April 5, 1985	April 5, 1985
Nominated directors on boards	If necessary	Always	If necessary	Usually	Usually	
Aims for realization of investments after five years	USM, etc.	OTC, management buy-outs, USM, etc.	USM, etc.	OTC, USM, etc.	OTC, USM, etc.	

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41	107.0%	110.5%	114.1%	117.6%
42	102.3%	105.8%	109.4%	112.9%
43	95.2%	98.8%	102.3%	105.8%

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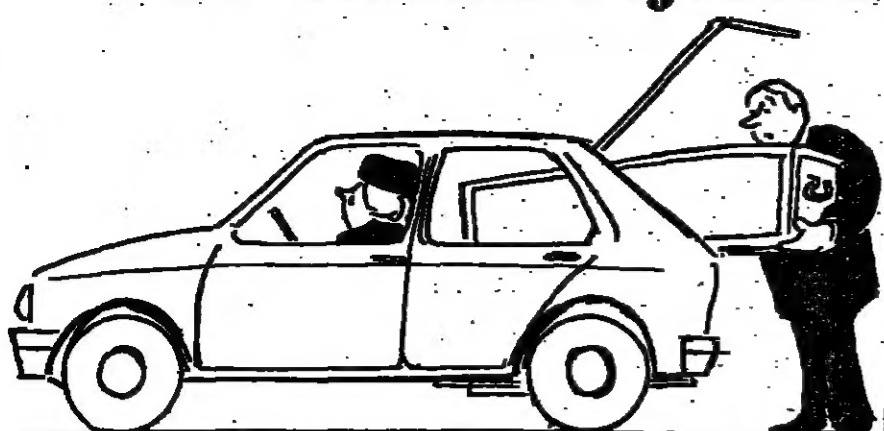
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M&G Life

FAMILY MONEY

Funeral expenses

Cost of dying rises, but DIY burials rejected



"IT'S A GOOD THING WE GOT THE HATCHBACK"

The cost of dying, like everything else, goes up, but this year funeral directors have managed to keep prices below the rate of inflation, according to a survey of funeral expenses.

The average funeral now costs £370, representing a rise of less than 5 per cent on last year in spite of increased cemetery charges, and doctors' and clergy fees. This information is based on a sample survey conducted in eight areas throughout England by the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society. With the government grant toward death expenses still at only £30, this leaves an average of £340 to be paid by the family.

But have you ever thought of a 'do-it-yourself' or family funeral? This idea is put forward (and I should add, rejected) by the vicar of Epsom, the Rev Bill Bowder, who completed the survey of funeral directors. For such a "DIY" funeral, you would have to buy a coffin which would cost about £30, with linings and handles an extra £5 or £10. The death certificate is usually handed to the nearest relative, but a second certificate is required for cremation.

The hospital authorities would be the next hurdle because some have a rule that they will release bodies only to an undertaker. "However, perseverance should win through red tape," says Mr Bowder.

Cemeteries and crematoria vary in their willingness to entertain the idea of a non-standard funeral. One crematorium in the north of England at first refused to accept a coffin that was not in a hearse, but relented when it was pointed out that

it used a van to remove a body from hospital.

So with the hire charges for a van, doctor's certificates and an average crematorium fee of £50, a non-standard funeral without benefit of clergy could add up to £150.

"Would it be worth it?" asked Mr Bowder.

"In the face of very real difficulties which would arise with reluctant officials and the possibility of delays and the overwhelming emotional bur-

den it would place on oneself after a death, the answer has got to be - no. It is under such conditions one would realize what sterling yet unswerving work the funeral director does for his client."

With this sort of conclusion it is not surprising that the National Association of Funeral Directors broadly approves of the survey. But the association which represents 2,300 undertakers handling 80 per cent of

funerals disputes the average cost.

The association believes that it is more like £250 for an undertaker's fees with another £150 for the extras bringing the total cost of £400. It says the £370 figure which excludes so many extras is "misleading."

The average figure in itself can be misleading as regional variations are so great. Local authorities can charge over £300 to open up a grave for

someone who lives outside the area.

Camden, for instance, which has a policy of preferring local residents, charges £70 for people living in Camden and £210 for people who have moved away and want to return to be buried.

Mr Bowder's survey for the Odd Fellows Society showed that basic funeral costs varied between £105 for a hospital contract in Lowestoft, Suffolk, to £581 for one in Worthing, Sussex. The cheapest funerals on offer from the undertakers in 14 areas, excluding the hospital contract, ranged from £150 in Leeds to £350 in Worthing.

A number of undertakers, concerned about the huge variations across the country are pressing for a standardization of the fees charged by local authorities for cemetery and graveyard services.

But a funeral director in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, says that there can never be a standard price for a funeral. His company operates from a three-story Georgian building set in ornamental gardens and cannot compete in prices with the high street shop.

"Our nearest crematorium is a round trip of 25 miles," he said. "Our clients, whatever their financial situation, are more concerned with value for money than with a cheap funeral."

An Otley, Yorkshire, undertaker, whose funeral costs average £400 to £600, said: "We care too much about our calling to do a 'cheap' funeral."

And a Norwich, Norfolk, undertaker said that people should be educated about the costs of funerals and encouraged to take out insurance to cover them. "People think

nothing of spending £1,000 on holidays abroad. They want a high standard of life but they do not want to pay for a high standard of death."

Undertakers' fees are modest, he added, compared with vicars charging £16.50 an hour plus travelling expenses and doctors spending 20 minutes on a death certificate for which they are paid £32 plus travel.

The Odd Fellows who commissioned the survey offer whole life insurance policies which pay out when you die.



They may not be the best value on the market but offer a fair return. A man of 40 would have to pay £1.95 a year for 20 years for every £100 insured, a man of 49, £4.25 and a man of 59, £6.40 a year for 10 years. And a man of 74 in good health could get cover for his death for £13.35 a year for every £100 covered.

Vivien Goldsmith

Planning condition outwith power of applicant not invalid

Grampian Regional Council and Another v City of Aberdeen District Council

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill and Lord Bridge of Harwich

[Speeches delivered November 24]

A condition imposed on a grant of planning permission that the development permitted was not to proceed unless and until a road closure had been brought about was valid notwithstanding that it was not wholly within the power of the applicant for permission to bring about that closure.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the City of Aberdeen District Council from the Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lord Emslie, Lord President, Lord Cameron and Lord Grieve) on January 18, 1983, (1983 SLT 526) who had allowed an appeal by the first respondents, the Grampian Regional Council, from the second respondent, the Secretary of State for Scotland.

The provisions of sections 26 (1), 38, 39 and 198 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, referred to by Lord Keith are reproduced in identical terms in sections 29 (1), 41, 42 and 209 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

Mr J. T. Cameron, QC and Mr R. S. Keen (both of the Scottish Bar) for Aberdeen, the City of Aberdeen, the Grampian Regional Council and Mr A. F. Rodger (both of the Scottish Bar) for the Secretary of State.

LORD KEITH said that Grampian had applied to Aberdeen and to Kincardine and Deeside District Council, the local planning authorities, for planning permission for the change of use of land lying across the authorities' boundaries from agricultural to industrial and approval of a site layout. The authorities had failed to issue determinations within the statutory time limit, and Grampian had appealed against the deemed refusals of permission to the Secretary of State.

The reporter to whom determination of the appeals had been delegated had refused them on the sole ground of traffic safety. He had considered that the hazard would be removed if Wellington Road to the south of the site were to be closed, and had then considered whether it would be competent to grant planning permission subject to a condition requiring the closure of Wellington Road.

He had concluded that, since it did not lie wholly within Grampian's power to secure the closure of the road, because any closure order that they might make (under section 12 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1970) would require confirmation by the Secretary of State, which, in the event of objections, would not necessarily be granted, the imposition of such a condition would not be competent.

The issue in the appeal turned on the nature of conditions that might lawfully be attached to a grant of planning permission under section 26 (1) of the 1972 Act. The power to attach conditions was expressed in the widest possible terms: "the local planning authority may grant planning permission either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as they think fit."

The power was not, however, unlimited. The nature of the limitations was well settled by authority and had been comprehensively stated by Viscount Dilhorne in *Newbury District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment* ([1981] AC 578, 599-600):

"It follows that the conditions imposed must be for a planning purpose and not for any ulterior one, and that they must fairly and reasonably relate to the development permitted. Also they must not be so unreasonable that no reasonable planning authority could have imposed them."

Grampian's argument, which had prevailed before the First Division, accepted that a condition requiring them to secure the closure of Wellington Road would be invalid in the absence of that power. But it was not within their power to bring about that result at their own hand and, accordingly, the condition would be enforceable. Authority for that was to be found in *British Airports Authority v Secretary of State for Scotland* (1979 SC 200).

But it was maintained that the reporter had misdirected himself by failing to consider whether, given

that the expected traffic hazards meant that otherwise desirable development could not be allowed to go ahead unless Wellington Road were closed, there was any form of enforceable condition not infringing the limitations laid down by the authority that was capable of bringing about the desired result. Such a condition, it was argued, was a condition that development on the site should not proceed unless and until Wellington Road had been closed.

Before the House, Aberdeen had attacked the First Division's acceptance of that argument on the ground that the imposition on the grant of planning permission of any negative condition related to the occurrence of an uncertain event was unreasonable and therefore invalid.

It was maintained that there was no practical distinction between a condition requiring a result that it was not within the power of the applicant alone to bring about and a condition prescribing, that no development should be permitted until that result had been achieved, because in either case the practical effect was to require the applicant to bring about something that was not within his power. It was said to be, in any event, undesirable that there should be prolonged uncertainty as to whether the development would be able to go forward or not.

There was no substance in those contentions. In the first place, there was a crucial difference between the positive and the negative type of condition in this case, namely that the former was enforceable while the latter was not. In the second place, the reasonableness of any condition had to be considered in the light of the facts of each case. In this case, the proposals for development put forward by Grampian had been found by the reporter to be generally desirable in the public interest. The traffic problem was capable of being solved by the road closure, which had at least reasonable prospects of being achieved under statutory powers.

In the circumstances, it would have been not only not unreasonable but highly appropriate to grant planning permission subject to the condition that the development was not to proceed unless and until the closure had been brought about. In any event, it was impossible to view a condition of that nature as unreasonable and not within the scope of section 26 (1) of the Act if regarded as a condition under section 198, Subsection (1) provided:

"The Secretary of State may by order authorize the stopping up or diversion of any highway if he is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in order to enable development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted under Part III of this Act, or to be carried out by a government department."

A situation where planning permission had been granted subject to a condition that the development was not to proceed until a particular highway had been closed was plainly one situation within the contemplation of that enactment, though no doubt there were others.

The stopping up of the highway would obviously be necessary in order to enable the development to be carried out. So it was reasonable to infer that precisely the type of condition that was in issue in this appeal had been envisaged by the legislature in enacting section 26 (1).

As it happened, Grampian had themselves power, under section 12 of the 1970 Act, to promote an order for the closure of the road. But that was an accident, though it might perhaps make the case an *ex fortiori* one. Section 198 was a general and was apt to favour strongly the reasonableness of negative conditions relating to the closure of highways.

As to the argument on uncertainty, it was sufficient to notice that the provisions of sections 38 and 39 of the Act, about the limit of duration of planning permissions, indicated the recognition that development might be the subject of planning permission might not be carried out within any particular time-scale or at all. There was nothing to compel any successful applicant for planning permission to carry out his development, so uncertainty might be said to be a natural feature of the planning process.

LORD FRASER, LORD SCARMAN, LORD ROSKILL and LORD BRIDGE agreed. Solicitors: *Sherwood & Co* for A C Bennett & Fairweather, WS, Edinburgh; *Martin & Co*, parliamentary agents, for Shepherd & Wedderburn, WS, Edinburgh.

Sequestrators' questions must be answered

Messenger Newspaper Group Ltd v National Graphical Association

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Stephen Brown

[Judgment delivered November 30]

Where sequestration of a contemnor's assets had been ordered, anyone who knowingly took any action which prevented the sequestrators from carrying out their duty was obstructing a court order and therefore technically in contempt. The Court of Appeal so stated when dealing with ancillary matters following the withdrawal of an appeal by the National Graphical Association (NGA) against the decision of Mr Justice Eastham who had fined the union for contempt of court and had ordered that a writ of sequestration be issued against the union.

Mr Terence Rigby for the NGA; Mr Charles Hargrave for the National Graphical Association; Mr Howard Page for the sequestrators; Mr Anthony Boswood for Barclays Bank (NGA's bankers); *Stacy Hayward & Co* were not present or represented.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that they were entitled to think that their case could be considered to be different from that of *Edman*. Their Lordships were clearly of the opinion that their case was not different. For that reason the accountants were technically in contempt of court.

The court would order that the accountants divulge the information asked for. The content of the union's officials was irrelevant.

the court. His Lordship (then President of the National Industrial Relations Court) giving judgment of the court had said that the position of a third party in relation to a writ of sequestration was analogous to that of third party in relation to an injunction.

In the context of *Edman*'s case the court was concerned only with a bank which held or had held money on behalf of a contemnor. The principle which the court applied in that case was that no one should knowingly take any action which would obstruct compliance by the sequestrators with the terms of the writ of sequestration and thereby obstruct a court order.

Applying that principle in the present case, the refusal to disclose the information requested was clearly an obstruction to the performance of the sequestrators' duty. His Lordship did not doubt that *Stacy Hayward & Co* were acting in the way which they thought was correct. His Lordship was not criticizing them as professional accountants any more than the court was criticizing the bank in *Edman*'s case.

The accountants' action was based on a mistaken view of the law. They were entitled to think that their case could be considered to be different from that of *Edman*. Their Lordships were clearly of the opinion that their case was not different. For that reason the accountants were technically in contempt of court.

The court would order that the accountants divulge the information asked for. The content of the union's officials was irrelevant.

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- Procedures for making regular payments to an account.
- Or please send me further information.

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Full name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
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Signature(s) _____
Date _____



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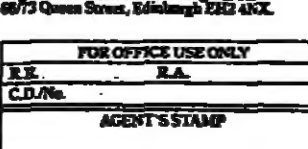
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Britain hopeful of Athens summit

By Patricia Clough

The Government sees the chance of a breakthrough at the Athens summit, thanks to France's new proposals to control the growth in community spending, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said yesterday.

While Eurocrats in Brussels were expressing doubts that the summit would resolve much, if anything, of the Community's huge budget and agriculture crisis, Mr Rifkind told *The Times*: "There is no reason for pessimism."

There had been "substantial convergence" in the 10 members' views since the last summit in Stuttgart in June, he said in an interview. The new proposals, in which France envisaged for the first time restrictions on farm spending, was a "potential major breakthrough."

"Now France, West Germany, Britain and the Netherlands are speaking with a very similar voice," he said. This meant that there was a broad base on which to work for effective reforms.

Controls on agricultural spending, one of Mrs Thatcher's essential conditions for any increase in the Community's own income, would have consequences for farmers, he said. But the government would oppose any measures that discriminated against British farmers, who are more efficient than most of their continental colleagues.

In particular, it would combat any attempt to penalize intensive milk production.

The European Parliament's threat to freeze Britain's 1983 budget rebate or reject the whole EEC budget if the summit did not agree on budgetary reform would have no effect on the Athens meetings, he said.

The Government "shares the concern" of the seven Tory backbenchers who voted with Labour to oppose any increase in the EEC's own financial resources.

No cash, no deal, page 5
Leading article, page 7

Falklands calendar tours around the islands

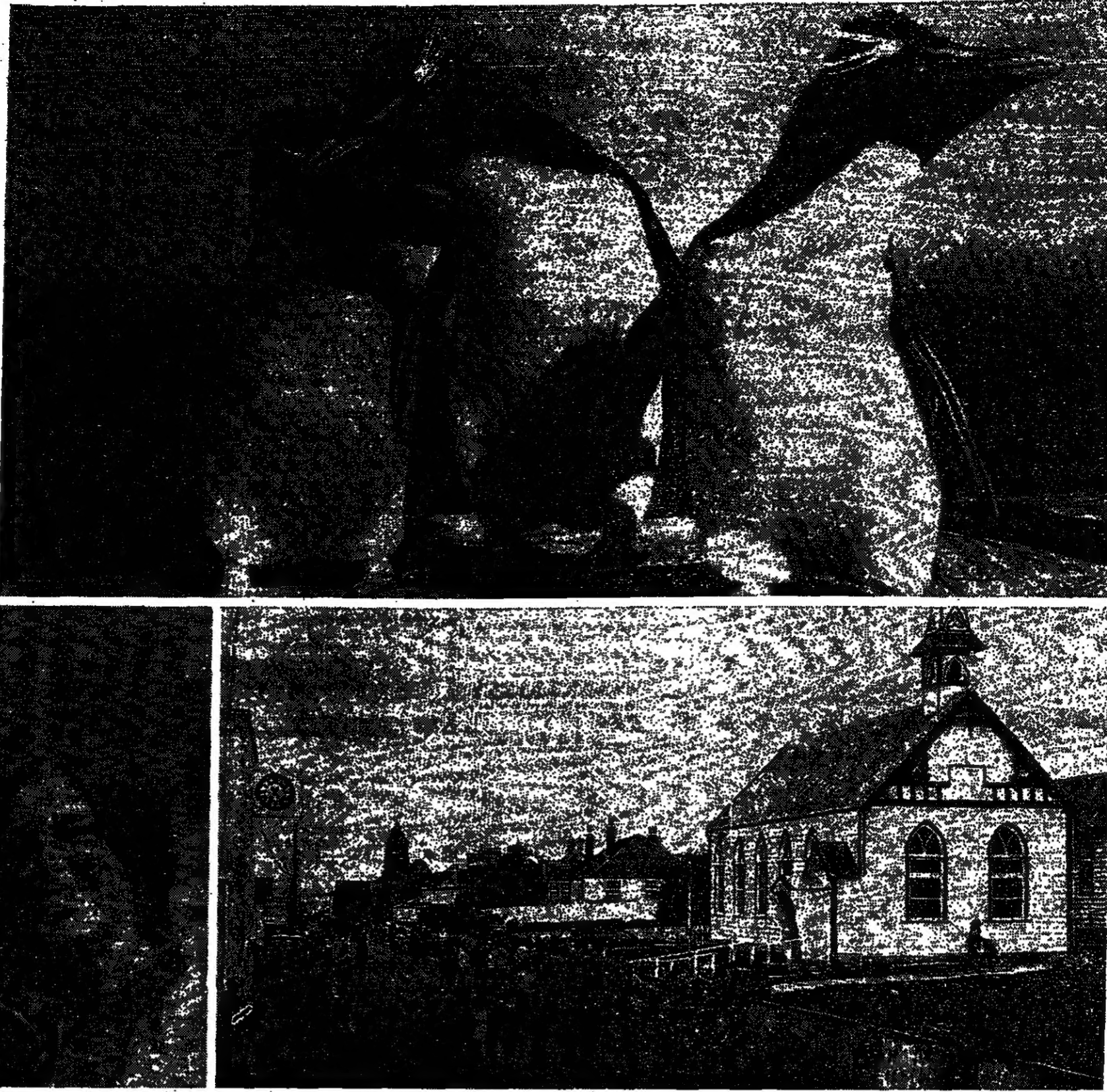
One of the New Year's more unusual calendars has been produced by Mr Stephen Whitley the Falklands Islands' veterinary officer, whose photographs of views, landmarks and wildlife were taken on his continual travels around the islands. (Sandra Hempel writes).

The British public, however, will not get the chance to buy it for, although it is being printed in London, all 5,000 copies are going to the Falklands.

January (right) shows a group of Rockhopper penguins, the smallest of the five species which breed in the Falklands. A protected bird, it is very noisy and quarrelsome.

February (below right) has a picture of St Mary's Church, Rose Road, Port Stanley, built in 1899. Rose Road is named after the British explorer and navigator Captain Ross, who visited the islands with the British Antarctic expedition in 1842. Captain Ross favoured the move of the capital from its original site at Port Louis to the better harbour at Port William with its inner harbour, Port Stanley.

Shown below is Mr Whitley with his wife, Susan, a schoolteacher, who was killed by an artillery shell in the last days of the fighting around Port Stanley.



Tighter checks on honours candidates

Continued from page 1

He will use data to be published on Tuesday by the Trades Union Congress Labour Research Department which juxtaposes industrialists honoured for non-political services by Mrs Thatcher since 1979 with the financial contributions their companies have made to the Conservative Party.

Shortly after becoming Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher told the Commons she was restoring the practice of awarding honours for political services. She undertook to forward to the scrutiny committee any names she added personally to the honours list at CBE rank or above.

It is impossible to tell, however, from reading a routine honours list which names were recommended by the Prime Minister personally unless it specifies that the award was for political services and the person honoured was a supporter of the Conservative Party.

The bulk of New Year and Birthday honours lists are compiled on the basis of recommendations processed by the Whitehall machine, rather than arising from a political initiative, and do not always pass through the scrutiny committee's hands. But resignation honours nominated by outgoing Prime Ministers are examined by the Privy Counsellors.

The committee's powers, stated most recently in a 1979 Order in Council, enable Lord Shackleton, Lord Franks and Lord Carr to report to the Prime Minister if the past history or general character of a person nominated him unsuitable to be recommended.

"In the event of the committee reporting against any name and the Prime Minister determining still to recommend such a name, a copy of the report of the committee will be submitted to Her Majesty with the recommendation."

In pursuing their inquiries, the Privy Counsellors can obtain confidential information contained in police files and Security Service material, in addition to routine information held on individuals by Whitehall departments.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions
The MacLaurin Collection - the first exhibition of the MacLaurin collection of twentieth century art. The MacLaurin Art Gallery, Roselle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (until Jan 28).

Face to Face portrait exhibition at the Cooper Gallery Church Street, Glasgow, South Yorks Tues 1 to 5, 30, Wed to Sun to 5.30 closed Mon (until Feb 5).

A Weaver's Life: Ethel Mair, 1872-1952. Galleries 17-19, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 23).

Out of the Nomad's Tent: an exhibition of Turkish hand-woven rugs and textiles. Colston House Gallery, Market Place, Fairford, Gloucestershire, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 6 (until Dec 11).

1983 Christmas exhibition of paintings, prints, ceramics, toys, jewelry and tapestries. Festival Gallery, 1 Pierpoint Place, Bath, Tues to Sat 11 to 5 (until Dec 23).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,300

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Colney Street, London WC9N 9TT. The winners and solutions will be published next Saturday.

ACROSS

- Game player? Nonsense! (10).
- Former tragic killer in the West Country (6).
- Sure it's connected with current arrangements? (8).
- Woodworkers call it a rest centre (8).
- Girl some deemed naive? (4).
- Queen trains Eton form to read novelist (4,6).
- Naughtiness of Benedict's lady? (7).
- ARP members left in sympathy (7).
- Food reserve for wartime consumer (6,4).
- Started to open a drink (4).
- It made an unusual decorated fabric (8).
- Herb and Jack continue to indulge in horseplay (8).
- Ingenuous type many bar (6).
- TV programme to control opinion (6-4).

DOWN

- Jack and Dora wrong? Jack might be (6).
- Scottish literary school is cultured? (8).
- A 21 note given to people causes estrangement (10).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 17

COMPUTER COMPETITION

WIN A PRIZE OF £1,000

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In the garden

One is often told on TV and radio and in articles to put combs, tubers, fruits and vegetables in a frost-free shed. No shed is frost free: in prolonged periods of frost unless it is heated. If a frost lasts for three days and nights it will penetrate even a brick-built garage. So bring indoors dahlias and begonia tubers and gladioli corms. Do not put them in the loft because of bitter nights frost can penetrate an untreated loft.

Watch now for signs of mice in frames, greenhouses or in stores. Set traps; milk chocolate or a broad bean seed will often prove a better bait than cheese. Slugs can be a nuisance eating the buds of Iris Unguicularis (L. stylata) and other plants. So put down generous quantities of slug bait or water on liquid slug killer. Put a cloche or two over parsley plants now.

Roads

London and South-east A1010 (Chesham): Sewer work along (Rushbrook Street) between Russell Ride and Hillside Avenue; south-bound carriageway reduced. A100 (Leyton): Resurfacing work between Lea Bridge Road and Venetian Avenue; single line traffic with traffic signals between 9.30 and 4 pm in each direction along Markhouse Road. A265: Sewer work along Heathfield to Burwash Road; two-way traffic on one carriageway, temporary signals.

Midlands and East Angles A14: Roadworks on Huntingdon bypass; lane closures. A52: Contraflow system at Sandhurst on Derby to Nottingham Road. A48: Roadworks, with traffic signals at Church Street, Shropshire.

Wales and West A476: Bypass construction at Merthyr Tydfil to Pontypridd; only one lane in use with temporary signals. A38: Eastbound carriageway closed on Ivybridge to Plymouth Road east of Lee Mill. A55: Temporary roundabout on Conway to A149 Road at Colwyn Bay, junction with A546.

North: M1: Bridge reconstruction works between junctions 33 and 34, South Yorkshire; contraflow, delays expected. A637: Bailey Bridge in use due to mainly subsidence on Barnsley Road between Dorton and Barnsley; traffic lights, delays expected. A1: Roadworks between Moorfield and Seaton Burn, Northumberland.

Scotlands A66: Sewer work at Invergowrie; single lane traffic with traffic lights. A9: Footbridge construction at Ainslie; single lane traffic, delays. A78: Carriageway closures and contraflow in operation, on Irvine bypass at river Irvine, south of junction with A71. Information supplied by AA.

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure will be maintained over S and E parts of England while troughs of low pressure cross N and W parts of Britain.

6am to midnight

London, SE: sun to 8, light rain, then sun; wind S or SE, light to moderate; max temp 50°F (10°C to 15°C).

E central W England, Midlands (W): dry, sunny; wind SW, moderate to fresh; max temp 50°F (10°C to 15°C).

Central W England, Midlands (E): dry, sunny; wind S or SE, light to moderate; max temp 50°F (10°C to 15°C).

SW England, Wales: occasional light rain or drizzle, chiefly over coasts and hills, drying out; sun, mainly developing; wind S or SW, light to moderate; max temp 50°F (10°C to 15°C).

Channel Islands: dry, sunny; wind S or SE, light to moderate; max temp 50°F (10°C to 15°C).

SW Scotland, N. Ireland, Isle of Man, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Central Highlands, Northern Ireland: rather cloudy with occasional light rain or drizzle; wind SW, moderate to fresh; max temp 50°F (10°C to 15°C).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen: perhaps a little light rain or drizzle, sun, mainly developing; wind S or SW, light to moderate; max temp 50°F (10°C to 15°C).

Wales, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mostly cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle, some bright intervals; wind SW, fresh to moderate; max temp 50°F (10°C to 15°C).

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Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Joseph Conrad, Berdichev, Russia, 1857; Anton von Webern, composer, Vienna, 1883; Dr Rajendra Prasad, 1st president of India, 1889-1963; Zoraida, Blücher, 1884; Dethier: St Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary in the Far East, Shan-chuan Tao, China, 1552; Robert Lewis Stevenson, author of the *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, 1850; Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, 1910; Pierre Mendès France, French Prime Minister, 1874-1954; Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, author of *Leviathan*, Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, 1588; Robert Banks Jenkinson, 2nd Lord Liverpool, prime minister, 1812-71; William Shakespeare, 1564-1616; Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, 1818-95; George Bernard Shaw, 1876-1950; The Observer was first published, 1791.

Space shuttle calls

British Telecom customers can listen in to live communication between the Columbia space shuttle and Mission Control at Houston, Texas, by dialling 0101 307 410. Ten minutes cost £3.41 (both prices include VAT).

A three-minute call during the cheap rate period will cost £1.62. Ten minutes cost £3.41 (both prices include VAT).

The pound

Bank **Buy** **Sell**

Australia \$ 1.53 1.55

Belgium Sfr 33.75 33.75

Canada \$ 1.27 1.28

Denmark Kr 14.72 14.85

France Ffr 6.55 6.57

Germany DM 1.73 1.74

Greece Dr 161.00 161.00

Italy Lira 1,336 1,336

Japan Yen 246.00 246.00

Netherlands Gld 1.31 1.32

Spain Ptas 166.64 166.64

Sweden Kr 12.12 12.12

Switzerland Fr 1.45 1.46

USA \$ 1.53 1.55

West Germany DM 1.73 1.74

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